Daily Report

Latin America

FBIS-LAT-88-221
Wednesday
16 November 1988

Daily Report
Latin America

FBIS-LAT-88-221 *16 November 1988*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not previously disseminated in electronic form.

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Baena Soares Reelected OAS Secretary General *[San Salvador TV]* 1
Strict Security Emphasized at OAS Meeting Site *[AFP]* 1

CARIBBEAN

Cuba

Castro Tours Hospital Expansion, Greets Staff *[Havana TV]* 2
Havana Announces Gorbachev Visit in Dec *[Havana TV]* 2
'Signs of Hope' for Agreement in Geneva *[Havana Radio]* 2
Joint Declaration Issued *[Havana Radio]* 2

Haiti

President Avril Interviewed on Current Problems *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 2

MEXICO

Finance Secretariat on Foreign Debt Interest *[UNOMASUNO 14 Nov]* 13
* Dissatisfaction With CNOP Leadership Voiced *[PROCESO 17 Oct]* 13

CENTRAL AMERICA

El Salvador

CD Communique Criticizes Government, FMLN *[EL MUNDO 12 Nov]* 15
FMLN Issues Communique on Unilateral Truce *[Radio Venceremos]* 16
Rebels Reportedly Inflict 17 Casualties *[Radio Venceremos]* 17

Honduras

Party Leader on Need To Review Economic Plans *[Tegucigalpa Radio]* 17
Propaganda Bomb Explodes in La Ceiba 12 Nov *[ACAN]* 17

Nicaragua

Ortega Details Hurricane Damage, Losses *[Managua Radio]* 18
* New Districts in Managua Urban Area Described *[BARRICADA 17 Oct]* 24

Panama

Solis Palma Delivers Journalists Day Speech *[Panama City Radio]* 25
Assembly President Urges Davis 'Withdrawl' *[ACAN]* 27
FDP Reports Military Promotions,Changes *[ACAN]* 27

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

Menem Questions Caputo's Position on Falklands *[Buenos Aires Radio]* 29
British Properties 'Embargo' *[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 29
Strike Situation, Prospects Summarized *[Madrid EFE]* 29
Arsenal Discovery Linked to Arms Trafficking *[Buenos Aires Radio]* 30
Seven Arrested in Mendoza; Weapons Seized *[Buenos Aires Radio]* 30
Supreme Court Upholds Drug Trafficking Sentence *[Buenos Aires Radio]* 30
* Loopholes May Allow Escape From Debt Contracts *[LA PRENSA 13 Oct]* 30
* Urgent Steps Demanded Against Overfishing *[LA PRENSA 8 Oct]* 32
Statistics on Grain Exports to USSR Reported *[Buenos Aires Radio]* 33

Chile

Merino Views Possible Constitutional Reform *[Santiago Radio]* 33
Ballerino Takes Over Presidency Minister Slot *[Santiago Radio]* 33
General Leiva Appointed New Intelligence Chief *[Santiago Radio]* 33
Briones Installed as Government TV Director *[Santiago Radio]* 33
Nunez Socialists Not To Nominate Candidate *[Santiago Radio]* 33
FPMR Releases Communique to Chilean People *[Santiago Radio]* 33
FPMR Plants 'Vietnam-Type' Bombs in Escape *[Santiago Radio]* 34
'Arsenal' Found in Puerto Montt, 3 Arrested *[Santiago Radio]* 34
Soviet Ship Seeks Assistance in Antofagasta *[Santiago Radio]* 34

Colombia

Military-Drug Trafficking Link Alleged *[Radio Patria Libre]* 34
Drug Chiefs Reportedly Move Operations *[Bogota Radio]* 36
M-19 Guerrillas Occupy Two Radio Stations *[EL TIEMPO 10 Nov]* 36
Guerrillas Attack 3 Towns in Boyaca Department *[Bogota TV]* 36
Six Peasants Killed in Cordoba Department *[Bogota TV]* 36
Police Discover Poppy Plantation in Tolima *[Bogota TV]* 36

Ecuador

Sole Workers Front Calls for 24 Nov Strike *[AFP]* 36
Monetary Board President on 'Urgent' Measures *[Quito Radio]* 37
Agreements Signed With Canada, Spain *[EL COMERCIO 1 Nov]* 37

Paraguay

Colorado Party Leaders Lash Out at Bishop *[EL DIARIO 13 Nov]* 37
Church Responds to Attack *[ULTIMA HORA 14 Nov]* 38
FRG To Finance Agricultural Research Center *[EL DIARIO 15 Nov]* 38

Peru

Prime Minister Comments on Price Adjustments *[Lima TV]* 38
Alfonsin To Dedicate Nuclear Research Center *[Madrid EFE]* 39
Terrorists Bomb Electric Tower, City Hall *[Lima Radio]* 39
Soviet Fish Industry Official Reviews Visit *[EL COMERCIO 5 Nov]* 39
Garcia Meets With DPRK Trade Minister *[Lima TV]* 39

Uruguay

President Sanguinetti Returns From PRC, Europe *[TELAM]* 40
Hails Trade Prospects *[Montevideo Radio]* 40
Interior Minister Cited on Amnesty Law Issue *[TELAM]* 41
Tupamaro Leader Acquitted on 'False News' Charge *[Montevideo Radio]* 41

Guyana

Foreign Minister Jackson Leaves for Europe *[CANA]* 41
Government Policy Hurts Union Financially *[CANA]* 41

Baena Soares Reelected OAS Secretary General

PA1511175088 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Summary] Today Joao Clemente Baena Soares was reelected OAS secretary general in San Salvador. The Brazilian diplomat, who was unanimously reelected to the post, described this decision by the OAS member states as approval of his past work and confidence in his future efforts.

Strict Security Emphasized at OAS Meeting Site

PA1611032788 Paris AFP in Spanish 1610 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Excerpt] San Salvador, 14 Nov (AFP)—[Passage omitted] The Salvadoran Army has established additional security measures in San Salvador. Hundreds of men armed with powerful weapons, as well as armored personnel carriers, patrol the city.

At the same time, Salvadoran Air Force aircraft fly over the capital. Strict security measures have been implemented at the Sheraton Hotel, the site of the OAS meeting, in preparation for the arrival of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz.

Colonel Galileo Torres, who heads the Salvadoran Army's press office, told AFP that the number of armed actions have decreased throughout the country, but "they could increase" by Friday, when the [FMLN] truce ends.

Torres said, "The Army is ready to counteract possible subversive street provocations staged by groups of people trying to impress the Central American foreign ministers."

Colonel Julio Emilio Ponce, Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman, reported over the weekend that the FMLN would rally masses of people in the center of the capital and near the Sheraton Hotel.

Torres said Salvadoran Foreign Minister Ricardo Acevedo delivered information about the rebels' plans to those attending the meeting.

Cuba

Castro Tours Hospital Expansion, Greets Staff

FL1611023788 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Moments before today's ceremony inaugurating the Frank Pais expansion, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro and hospital director Dr Rodrigo Alvarez Cambras toured the new facilities.

Commander in Chief Fidel Castro praised (Hiroshi Nakajima) and (Carlai Demasedo), directors of the WHO and the Pan American Health Organization, as well as the ministers and personalities that are participating in the Second International Seminar on Primary Health Care in Havana.

The commander in chief and the delegation visited the theater, teaching rooms, patient facilities, and new operating rooms. [video shows Castro in operating room speaking with hospital staff] [passage omitted]

Havana Announces Gorbachev Visit in Dec

FL1511181588 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] At the invitation of Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the PCC Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers of the Republic of Cuba, Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, will pay an official and friendly visit to our country in early December of this year.

'Signs of Hope' for Agreement in Geneva

FL1511162488 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1503 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] As the 5th day of intense contacts and negotiations on the southwest African region begins—talks are said to be very difficult—it appears that an agreement is possible in Geneva.

The day began with statements from the Cuban delegation's spokesperson, Alcibiades Hidalgo, who told the press what has been agreed upon up to today at the quadripartite talks among Angola, Cuba, South Africa, and the United States is encouraging. Nevertheless, Hidalgo emphasized that it is impossible for him to give details on the current talks because all the parties have agreed to complete discretion. Hidalgo said that during the current ninth round of negotiations on southwest Africa, U.S. mediators have made a serious effort, and that all parties have contributed.

Now, more than ever, an agreement on southwestern Africa is near, Alcibiades Hildalgo declared to the press. Sources close to the meeting said that the discussions at the ninth round of talks among Cuba, Angola, South Africa, and the United States on southwest Africa will continue for the rest of today, but they did not confirm whether they will actually end today.

The meetings continue at the Intercontinental Hotel in Geneva where they began last Friday and were scheduled to end last Sunday. The quadripartite conference among Cuba, Angola, South Africa, and the United States, for a negotiated solution to the conflict in southwest Africa began in London last May.

Joint Declaration Issued

FL1511212088 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2033 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] Today in Geneva, the ninth round of talks on southwest Africa ended with a joint declaration that proposes government consultations on this matter.

Since 11 November, delegations from Angola, Cuba, South Africa, and the United States as a mediator, have held informal meetings in Geneva to continue negotiations for a peaceful solution to the conflict in southwest Africa and for regional peace.

During the meetings, the participants in the talks discussed, among other things, a timetable for deployment to the north and the gradual and complete withdrawal of Cuban internationalist troops from Angola based on an agreement between the governments of the two countries.

After thanking Switzerland for its support, Angola, Cuba, South Africa, and the United States agreed to hold a final round of negotiations in Brazzaville. The time for this meeting has not been determined.

Our country's delegation expressed its satisfaction with the results of the talks.

The spokesman for the Cuban delegation, Alcibiades Hidalgo, said that this round has practically opened the doors for a solution to the conflict in southwest Africa. Hidalgo stated that as a result of the conference, the groundwork for an agreement has been established which corresponds to the principles approved in New York. He added that the terms should now be ratified by their respective governments.

The progress made in this round occurred because all the parties were willing to reach a political solution and because of strong mediation, stressed Hidalgo.

Haiti

President Avril Interviewed on Current Problems

FL1611002588 Port-au-Prince Radio Haiti-Inter in French 0100 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Interview with Lieutenant General Prosper Avril, president of the military government, by Radio Haiti-Inter Director Jean Dominique at the National Palace on 9 November—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Dominique] Can you, for our listeners, draw up a balance sheet of your activities from the moment you took over?

[Avril] Yes, I can say that there is a balance sheet; and I think that up to the present, I can say that this balance is positive. It is positive in that, first of all—and this is a point very dear to me—the government has entered into a dialogue with the political sector, the professional sector, and the population, and we are now out of the undertow.

I think the balance is positive insofar as we have, up to the present, been able to keep the helm of state afloat, despite occasional ups and downs. We have kept the helm of state afloat and we are heading in the right direction—that is, in the direction of free expression—in the right direction. Through this struggle we have undertaken the task of disarming the paramilitary forces, insofar as we want to hold honest elections in Haiti.

The draft decree has been distributed to the political organizations and groups, to the press, and to the professional organizations; I was happy to see that everyone is interested in the problems and is willing to help to solve them. For us it is a matter of temporarily managing the nation's affairs, I think the balance is positive because not only have we tried to keep the nation on the path of freedom, but also we have effectively begun putting into motion a democratic process that is to culminate in honest, credible elections in Haiti.

[Dominique] [Passage omitted] I think that as far as the population is concerned, this is a prerequisite [preceding word in English], this disarming of the paramilitary forces is a prerequisite [un prealable] for holding credible elections, insofar as the voter will be able to go out and vote. We musn't forget that this is November 1988 and just 1 year ago the Haitian people suffered a tragic experience.

You speak of disarming the paramilitary forces. More specifically, soldiers from all different units have been noticed in the streets for the past few days. Can you, as president of a military government, draw a balance sheet of this—in terms of materiel collected, in terms of people or groups disarmed or arrested? Can such a balance be drawn, Mr President?

[Avril] Yes. I know weapons have been picked up. I also know people have been arrested, but I do not have an exact, precise, account enabling me to draw up an exact balance sheet, with numbers, of the situation for you. However, I should also tell you this divestment is not something I feel I had to effect prior to setting the democratic process in motion. This divestment is going to continue up to election day. I mean, we are going to work steadfastly up to election day, in order to be certain the population will be able to go out and vote in a peaceful environment.

We have made our plans. As you know, as soon as we announce that we are going to start over again, the divestment might become a little more difficult. However, since we are going to stand fast, and maintain the pace, I think we will end up accomplishing what we have in mind—to efficaciously disarm people. Also, this balance sheet showing the results of our labors, will be made public, so that everybody will be able to feel secure.

[Dominique] It is not the making public [of the balance sheet], Mr President, that will lead to a feeling of security, but rather the actual fact that there is no more shooting, and that there are no more bodies in the streets. You know what I mean. In connection with this disarming plan, I get the impression, Mr President, from the radio station reports and other media, there is a greater focus on vehicle searches than on, for example, house searches.

[Avril] No, we have—for reasons with which you are familiar, for very specific reasons—been forced to stop searching houses at 1800. We had to do this in order not to make families feel uncomfortable, because, as you have seen, there is a kind of provocation, I would even go so far as to call it—mostly by....[changes thought] There are certain actions that we have, up to the present, still not been able to effectively control. As you well know, I again today attended the funeral of one of our soldiers, a young enlisted man from the Presidential Guard. Last week I attended the funeral of another enlisted man from the Presidential Guard. And others are dying in provincial towns, such as Cap Haitien, for example. This means that when we must organize disarming efforts, we expect retaliations. We expect all kinds of backlash. This doesn't mean that these reactions will necessarily be forthcoming during the searches. They might be forthcoming during the night—or lead to attacks, or to the creation, in general, of an insecure home atmosphere among the nation's families. That is why we have given priority to families security. I mean, when people go home at night, they must be able feel secure and not think everyone knocking on their door is the police conducting a search operation. This is important because if people are uneasy and lack peace of mind, then I think we will have missed our mark, the reason for conducting these searches.

[Dominique] I understand that there must be strategic and psychological precautions in regard to house searches, Mr President. However, such searches are necessary insofar as, in the mind of the general public, whose reasoning we are trying to understand, in the population's mind there exist weapons caches. There are bigshots [preceding word in Creole: gro chabrak] who have armed themselves....

[Avril, interrupting] We have gotten many reports of there being arms caches in bakeries, in houses, on beaches, etc. We conducted searches at those places. However, unfortunately, we have never really been able to find anything. Very often, these reports have turned out to be unsubstantiated. That is why we have been obliged to become a bit stricter in choosing the places to be searched—because it isn't necessary to command troops for nothing. Therefore, we now take action based as much on substantiated police reports as on denunciations—because often we get reports,

but when we go to take action, we find nothing. I think that if the results are not, at present, really positive, they will have to become so—because in the end, we will have to recover those weapons.

[Dominique] Get the weapons back, but what about the individuals whom the public raises a hue and cry over; the international press, which has named names; and the enlisted men who have not hesitated to point out people, right and left in both government and private media just recently, between 17 September and today? The point is that one gets the impression that at a certain level—and this is conveyed very often in the notes we editors get—the impression that above a certain level, [words indistinct].

[Avril] No, no. No, no. I don't think so, because as soon as we get a report to the effect that there might be weapons someplace, there is a unit sent to the scene. We don't want to give the impression that we are hunting people down to intimidate families. No, we do not want to do it that way. And I think that if we really receive complaints or reports to the effect that there are weapons at such and such a place, we will go and search. That is for sure. And if radio stations are getting reports, I think it would also be a good idea to give them to us.

[Dominique] Mr President, I remind you—and I assure you I am not doing this maliciously—that last year, General Williams Regala used to say, often: But, if you know where the weapons are, tell us! Given the political context back then, I had the impression that he, and the regime as well, was playing a game. [passage omitted]

[Avril] Yes, the problem is that we are having many difficulties, especially with the population already traumatized. I have seen it, felt it, noted it. We can't seem to get people to trust us—and I cannot demand it. I cannot force people to trust. That is the big current crisis in Haiti. People don't trust. And that is one of the things that makes our work a bit more difficult. Because, if you think about it, what exactly is the purpose of the police? I mean, the police works together with the population. [passage omitted] [In foreign countries] there is mutual trust among the policeman, the ordinary citizen, and the citizen who has broken the law. The infringer knows that no one can lie about him; and the police station knows that the ordinary citizen was not lying when he denounced the infringer, and everything works out.

We are currently living in a crisis situation where no one trusts anyone. In my initiatives too, even abroad, every time we would get close to doing something I would hear: But how do I know that you are not going to do as you did in the past? Because the last time, people trusted. Thus, now, in the face of this crisis of confidence, the solution lies in doing something concrete. And I do not want to go around and around and around. I do not want to get caught in a vicious cycle. One must have the people's trust in order to work; however, work must be done to gain that trust. Thus, I think the appeal should be made for more trust. I am of good faith, and I know that my colleagues, who are working and who work hard, are also of good faith. Thus, they should be helped. A police force that is not helped by the population is ineffective, anywhere in the world.

[Dominique] The second point, still in connection with this business of security, is the fact that one often gets the impression—and this is connected with the problem of trust....[changes thought] You even mentioned the profound trauma the population suffered last year, from where the aggravation, and the rupture between the government and population, this gulf....[changes thought] We are, alas, tragically commemorating a bloody anniversary this month.

Mr President, may I allow myself to tell you that, for example—and this struck me—a few days ago when, when seated in front of the television, your ordinary TV viewer, who last 17 September heaved a sigh of relief upon seeing you arrive, before his eyes in his bedroom [incomplete sentence as heard]. He did heave a sign of relief. It was a legitimate—so to speak—sigh of relief, because he knew what was being planned before. However, when you appeared with the soldiers of the Presidential Guard, there was this relief. But then, the viewer seated before the television on a certain evening in which a general policy statement was made received a bit of a shock when certain figures appeared on the screen—in your entourage, Mr President.

[Avril] In my entourage! [Avril chuckles]

[Dominique] Well, OK, not in your entourage—among your guests.

[Avril] Uh-huh, OK, here's the story. I should tell you that....

[Dominique, interrupting] You know who I am referring to, don't you?

[Avril] Yes, I do see what you're getting at. However, first of all, I did not have control over the invitations—in the sense that I had asked that the political leaders be invited. I had asked that the press, and other people be invited. So, as far as I know, I don't think that those people that you are referring to received invitations. However, there was an Information Ministry communique issued which stated that men of good will could come, etc. OK. I had the impression that it was the Information Ministry's intention to encourage more people to attend, and therefore, it issued this communique. Automatically, everything.... [changes thought] There were no restrictions at the National Palace with regard to anyone at all.

Thus anyone could come. And with the policy that I have adopted here, the guards are not going to, during a political event, receive instructions to stop so-and-so or so-and-so. That was a political speech addressed to the nation, and, well, people came; and as for me, there are

certain people whom I saw only when they appeared in front of me. I didn't know whether so-and-so had been invited or not. So there you have it.

[Dominique] I'm telling you this because I noticed....

[Avril, interrupting] Yes. Yes....

[Dominique, continuing] [Words indistinct] a certain shock.

[Avril] Yes, people called me to say that yes, look here, and so forth. However, that is the truth. The truth is that no special invitations were issued, or cards sent to those who caused the population's shock.

[Dominique] If we approach this incident (?taking into consideration) an analogous statement made by your immediate predecessor.... [changes thought] Right after 19 June there was, over television—I remember it well, for I am a fervent TV watcher—on the occasion of a declaration about the same number [corrects himself] no, a few more. There were even more well-known men of good will from that sector on that day. And people immediately connected the two, you see....

[Avril, interrupting] Well....

[Dominique, continuing] (?It) sent a bad message, a bad signal.

[Avril] I also think that people must have made the distinction. Perhaps this time....

[Dominique, interrupting] (?No). [Avril laughs] [Words indistinct] this brings us to certain more essential elements of, shall we say, the way the path being followed by your government since 17 September is being perceived. A while ago, you mentioned the draft decree creating the electoral college. However, I was struck by a phrase in your general policy statement. Calling to mind the 1987 Constitution and putting your government back into perspective, as a de facto government, you set aside the transitory articles, Mr President. You said that the transitory articles....

[Avril, interrupting] Most of them. Most of them.

[Dominique] Most of them. That is correct. You have a good memory for terms. But, are you including Article 291 in this formula of most of them? Does Article 291 fall within this idea of most of them?

[Avril] Article 291 is in principle there for 10 years. Thus, up to the present, 291 appears to be (?in force). This means that it cannot be touched except by the people with the authority to frame a constitution, the people who will be in charge of amending the constitution. However, I must also point out to you that I am a.... [changes thought] I cannot tell you that I am a jurist, for I am a soldier. I am.... [breaks into laughter]

[Dominique] But you went to law school.

[Avril] Yes, I have a degree in law. I must tell you that I am very strict. One must be very strict with regard to (?constitutional law). With regard to Article 291, I don't want to play the devil's advocate, but 291 is one of the articles of the Constitution that is still in force. However, one must also read 292, which says that it is up to the provisional electoral council to see that this disposition is strictly applied.

[Dominique] And since the provisional electoral council no longer exists.... [incomplete sentence as heard] That's what you mean, (?isn't it).

[Avril] That is, 291 is still there; but the error lies in having given the provisional electoral council, which is temporary, the mandate seeing that this disposition is strictly applied. It is now up to jurists to make a decision on this. In my mind, I personally think legislative elections must be held before amending this Constitution. We will then have the two chambers, which will be able to (?serve as a) constitutional assembly empowered to work on the Constitution.

[Dominique] [Passage omitted] Acknowledging that this business of security for the population throughout the democratic process is a prerequisite, you have sent this draft decree to political leaders and groups, to socioprofessional organizations, and so forth. Has there been any reaction?

[Avril] Yes, I have already gotten feedback from perhaps five groups: four political groups and one human rights group. I read their observations. I see that there are two major criticisms: first, the matter of tutelage [tutelle]; and, second, appointments....

[Dominique, interrupting] The way of choosing members.

[Avril] The way of choosing members. Regarding tutelage.... [changes thought] First of all, I must tell you that I am not going to argue with them. Rather, I am going to explain—but not argue because the final decision is up to the political and socioprofessional organizations. It must be the result of a consensus. However, as an explanation: If they don't like the word tutelage, another word can be found; however, in administrative law, all governmental institutions, and even private ones, must be envisioned within the context of a executive ministry—insofar as the institution is independent does not mean that the institution constitutes a (?state within the state). On the other hand, an independent institution remains independent, even if certain matters—administrative matters—have to go through a ministry. Let me give you an example. [passage omitted] Justice is not even an independent institution. Justice is an independent power. But it's business goes through the Ministry of Justice nevertheless.

The legislative chamber is also an independent power. Nevertheless, it's business goes through the Ministry of the Interior. Therefore, to say that the electoral college will have to go through the Ministry of Justice.... [changes thought] They may not like the word tutelage, in which case they can find another word; however, the people who will be a part of the college, its employees, must be aware that they are a part of the government system, of the Haitian Government system—and not think that they are part of a college that is not linked to anything at all. That is in regard to the first point: tutelage.

They also talked about appointments. They say the executive may not appoint. In this connection, however, there are two ways for a public official to be empowered to act on the Haitian population: You must be either elected or appointed. I get the impression that the leaders, or the people doing the analyzing, have not received the cover letter signed by myself, the president of the Republic, in which I said the national and political sectors should participate in determining how these sages, should be recruited. The decree could not mention what I just said because you can't put that kind of thing in a decree, in a law! But the letter clearly says the names I am going to appoint are going to be the result of a consensus. I might have mentioned Article 289 of the Constitution, but I don't have the right to mention Article 209 [number as heard] of the Constitution.

[Dominique] Why not, Mr President?

[Avril] Because, first of all, I would be making a choice. I chose not to choose. I chose not to choose because I wanted to let the others choose the method of recruitment—because there is a big danger in Article 289; a danger not to me, but to them. If Article 289 is applied, the following article must also be applied. This is just like.... [changes thought] In cases of absence, the executive appoints. Suppose I apply Article 289. First of all, we already have one member of the executive in it. Then there is the advisory council, which no longer exists. That means the executive appoints another member. Also, we can expect to have some organization or group say: Ah, considering the traumatized state we are in, I am not getting involved with this business. I am pulling out. And there will be the executive, having to appoint 3, 4, or 5 members!

It would be a real pity to see the process blocked just because a decree was issued. I myself preferred not to talk that way but to, instead, say it in the letter attached to the copy of the draft decree, to let them know that it is up to them to decide how we should proceed regarding recruitment.

[Passage omitted] I know there is a crisis of confidence, and that people always think you have some evil purpose in mind. But what I intended to do was to, after receiving all the criticism and suggestions, set up a calendar—such-an-such a political organization made such-an-such a criticism on such-and-such a matter, proposed such-and-such, etc. And then assemble all these people in the Salle des Bustes [at the National Palace for a discussion and to work on the matter; and then suggest a vote on the matters of which we are unable to reach a consensus? We could vote on this or that particular matter. I think this would constitute an experience in democracy from the very outset of triggering the electoral process.

[Dominique] Which brings us to a problem, Mr President: Is the matter of elections, (?in the light of the current situation), a priority concern of the Haitian people? What is your feeling on this?

[Avril] [Passage omitted] A provisional government (?has nowhere else to go) but elections. Its (?end goal) must always be to hold elections. But I wouldn't call it a priority concern of the Haitian people. Their first priorities are food and employment. [passage omitted]

[Avril] Yes, and security, yes. But it is not a bad idea to start now because the process can be rather long. I mean, even assuming the political parties accept it as is, I cannot see the electoral college being formed and elections being held right away. They have to structure themselves, find the means to hold elections, and so forth. They have to carry out the preliminary operations and other things like that. Meanwhile, the government is going to buckle down to the task of finding work for the population and restoring security to the nation's families, etc.

[Dominique] Mr President, security is a problem to which we will be returning throughout the interview—but you mention finding employment, permitting the people to feed themselves, to satisfy their basic needs. This brings us to the second path you clearly chose on 17 September: the resumption of international aid. [passage omitted] Corruption, bad administration, waste, muddle, disorder, and underhanded wheeling-and-dealing have consumed much of this aid. Has anything valuable and positive for the Haitian people come out of the remaining aid? Everyone acknowledges that there is nothing—or practically nothing, to show for 15 years of massive aid. Therefore, the question is: If this aid is again given, what guarantee do we have that corruption will be reduced or done away with; and, secondly, that (?whatever) aid is (?not diverted) by officials misappropriating it will be managed skillfully, effectively, and competently?

[Avril] The essential thing here (?is) the will of the government leader, the desire to effectively manage, and the will to work at ensuring that this aid actually reaches the Haitian masses. People are wondering (?because they say) that for the past 15 years, the aid sent to Haiti has not been reaching the Haitian masses. However, I think this will not be the case with my government because there will be a vigilant eye all the way from the top. [passage omitted]

The structures will be improved progressively. It has to be done progressively because, as you know, even structural changes require time, and personnel—human resources in general. I am still taking inventory of the people I might be able to call upon to help me in this task. [passage omitted]

[Dominique] The thing is we are inheriting a very heavy legacy affecting the administrative apparatus all the way down the line—incompetence, lack of preparation, a tradition of diverting funds, corruption, and mediocrity. And the reform of this is a political problem, Mr President. It is not a matter of removing someone and appointing someone else. It is a political problem. We [words indistinct]....

[Avril, interrupting] Yes, yes, yes. [passage omitted] I am well aware of this—well aware of it. The problem is often first and foremost a political problem, especially at the current juncture, but we must move in the proper direction, progressively. Also, as you know, people often react with an eye to what is going on at the top. [passage omitted] We cannot say we are going to turn everything inside out. In fact you are well aware of the fact that if we accelerate things in this climate of mistrust we are already having to deal with, it could lead to a catastrophe. People must be made to feel secure while reform is going on. The essential thing is to make sure that everyone understands his role well and behaves properly.

If the civil servants know they will be tolerated, there is no hope of stopping or diminishing the bad tendencies that have existed for a long time. And a public administration cannot be changed in 1- or 2- or 3-months. [passage omitted] I cannot name names, but you must have noticed changes in the administration. [passage omitted] The essential thing is that regarding the public administration, the ministers have been instructed as to the government's line; and they have passed the word on down the line, and measures have been taken to clean up the public administration. This may take a little time, of course. As you know, the better equipped one is—the more means one has—the faster we will be able to clean up. [passage omitted] You cannot imagine how hard it is find a capable administrator. [passage omitted]

[Dominique] [Passage omitted] This, too, is a vicious circle, because, when you get right down to it, how....

[Avril, interrupting] No, the problem is.... [changes thought] I hope that private enterprise is also going to help the government. If we have a flourishing private sector, which is working, and can hire many people, the administration's job will be made that much easier, because often there are civil service cadres who really are not what we would like. But even the Constitution of 1987 protects these people. Can we just fire someone whose only fault is to have been hired without having the proper qualifications for the job? Instead of firing certain civil servants, we sometimes try to reassign them to different tasks. If the private sector were able to absorb personnel, this would lighten the public administration's burden. [passage omitted] In fact, the Constitution of 1987 even said that the elected president could do it [fire civil servants] only within the first 6-months. This is because the writers of the Constitution saw a danger in this.

[Dominique] [Passage omitted] Do you have a rescue plan, Mr President? [passage omitted]

[Avril] Again, a rescue plan would entail having the means with which to carry it out. [passage omitted] I do have a plan of my own in connection with housing. Of course, as I said, we must have the means. There again, you will see what kind of things I will be obliged to do.

Soon I am going to try to launch a home building plan for the workers, the Armed Forces members, and also for the peasants—because we have always neglected this sector. It will be a campaign to eliminate the slums. This is going to constitute, in a way, what I would like to leave behind for the short time that I will be at the helm of the affairs of state. [passage omitted] Thus, to tell you that I have a plan to build roads, houses, and hospitals would constitute being dishonest with myself.

We speak of international aid. Yes, we need it. But if it doesn't come, we must tighten our belts and plunge ahead. That is why I wanted to have at least this housing plan. And I am going to count on the Haitian people to help me pull the peasants, workers, and soldiers out of their current abject poverty.

[Dominique] You mean you are going to ask the public sector for help.

[Avril] Right! The private sector and all Haitians. [passage omitted]

[Dominique] So this housing construction plan would call for solidarity from the private sector. In the form of loans or gifts?

[Avril] [Passage omitted] In the form of contributions at first, and later, we'll see. We'll see. Because it is time the gap was narrowed. The gap must be narrowed. [passage omitted]

[Dominique] [Passage omitted] There has been, in the rural areas, systematic repression of organizations, peasants groups, communities—with the section chief at the center of it. [passage omitted] You recently said on television: If it were up to me, I would accept having the section chief elected. How do you think the peasants under the section chief's jurisdiction could be given a minimum of autonomy which would allow them to take their destiny, and affairs, in hand embarking on the path toward a certain modernization of their fate and lives?

[Avril] The problem of the section chiefs is, indeed, rather crucial. These days I am trying to listen to the radio every morning, to hear. To hear. And as I have said, I expect the peasants who denounce a section chief to suggest another person, to help us move faster. [passage omitted] I often

listen to the radio to take the pulse of the situation in the provinces. [passage omitted] However, when one needs to change the section chief, the problem is: Should we leave the section without anyone to guarantee the security of families, the plantations, etc.? [passage omitted] Can we leave the peasant to himself? I cannot take responsibility [of removing a section chief] without having the opinion of the people affected. I wonder if the fact that they don't say who they want means that they no longer want a section chief? I cannot be sure of this. Therefore, the conclusion is I must handle each case according to its own particular characteristics.

So what do I do? Often I instruct the Army head, and he tries to send a delegation to the scene to find out what can be done. It is not in our interest to impose a section chief on a population. But, can the position be eliminated? Can we abandon the communal section to thieves, murderers, and so forth. Is that what the peasants want? It is true, of course, that one cannot impose a watchful eye on someone who tells you that he does not need it.

[Dominique] I don't think that's the point, Mr President. The peasants who write us notes or even come to the radio station sometimes say that the rural police are fine. But the section chiefs have powers in the communal section that certainly exceed the powers attributed to them in the manual of military regulations. For example, the section chief acts as judge, notary, surveyor, and pawnbroker. He takes his wages in both cash and goods. Besides having police powers, he is a potentate in the area, often linked to the notary, the surveyor, and the entire structure that is weighing on the peasant. [passage omitted]

[Avril] But you yourself ackowledged that the manual does not give him all this power. [passage omitted] We used to have a school for training section chiefs, but for the past 2 years, we have really not been able to form classes and train them. At present we are obliged to live with what we've got. But the government is willing to change them, as long as the peasants give us honest. credible people to replace them with.

[Dominique] [Passage omitted] It is a regime, a system, that allowed them to take all this power. [passage omitted]

[Avril] Yes, but you must also bear in mind that the complaints really began after 17 September, because....

[Dominique, interrupting] Ah, no, Mr President!

[Avril] Yes.

[Dominique] But the radio stations have been receiving 20, 30, 40 complaints from the communal sections, every single day.

[Avril] Well, the other day I counted some 56 or 57 section chiefs that had been replaced. We are continuing to replace them. But if we could really get a report.... [changes thought] For example, when the people show up at the radio station, ask them to write us!

[Dominique] To you, Mr President?

[Avril] Yes, they can write me personally, or the commander in chief of the Army, or even Sergeant Heubreux, who sometimes gets letters from a community and who tells me: Here's what a particular group wants. I then execute the population's requests. We have no reservations about doing this because it is not at all in our interest to have our population exposed to so many difficulties.

As you know, with the Army's situation.... [changes thought] The districts and departments have no vehicles, so it is not that easy to go all the way back in order to find out exactly.... [changes thought] Very often, as you have seen in my notebook, I myself also use the press to find out what is going on in the rural sections—because after 1986, even the military radio suffered much damage. So when I hear the radio correspondents' reports on things that happen, I write down that what I heard is very bad; and I wait to see if they are going to say: Ah, if they would give us that person [Avril begins speaking in Creole] we would take him. This person would make a better section chief than that person. If they were to do this, the work would progress much faster, because....

[Dominique, interrupting, speaking in Creole] Mr President, I can tell you that if they were to say something like that, often....

[Avril, interrupting] They might have problems. [interview continues in Creole]

[Dominique] You bet!

[Avril] Well, then they should write.

[Dominique] Ah, big big problems! We have noticed that certain section chiefs have 40-50 assistants—40-50 assistants for a single section chief!

[Avril] But do you know the Army would not even recogize such people? Because under Army regulations, the section chief may have two assistants.

[Dominique] I don't have the (?section) name with me, but I'm telling you that there are 40-50.

[Avril] They have a right to two assistants. But they themselves might be sending people out right and left to police for them. But it is up to the peasants to let us know about these things, and then we will see what we can do. However, if the structure is not good, and nothing can be done for it, then I'm not that interested in fixing it, frankly.

[Dominique] It is the structure, General Avril, that is important.

[Avril] If nothing can be done about it, we won't insist on fixing it. In that case, this means even if the section chiefs were to be elected, you would still have the problem.

[Dominique] Let me put it another way. It is true that even if section chiefs were elected, the problem would be the same because there is an established structure in the communal sections that blocks the peasants' desire for change. The structure consists of the notaries, the surveyors, and—don't forget—the detectives [attaches]! There are a bunch of detectives who have rushed to hide in the different communal sections. The peasants have told me this.

[Avril] The detectives have no authority. They are doing things on their own.

[Dominique] They are doing things. And they are being supported by the section chiefs. [passage omitted]

[Avril] Yes, but you know that if one is speaking of communal structure, 1- month or 1- and 1/2-months are not long enough to get to the bottom of the problem. What we have do is to keep working on it, and determine to what extent we can fix it—because, as I said, I listen every morning. Now you have told me about the 40-50 assistants. I didn't know things were that way. [passage omitted] If things are like that, we will perhaps have to examine the matter, if not case by case, then at least department by department.

The big problem the Army is facing is a problem of logistics. Getting to the scene to see what is going on requires time and equipment, and involves expense. [passage omitted]

The only thing I find strange is that within the rural sections they cannot fail to know that we here in Port-au-Prince are going to become aware of it—(?which makes it) rather audacious of them to continue. This makes us wonder what is going on because everything seems to be happening all of a sudden! You tell me you have been hearing about it for 2 years. But we ourselves did not know about it. To us it appears that everything is happening all of a sudden. And you know that many section chiefs were changed not too long ago.

[Dominique] But General Avril, bear in mind that for the past 2 years scandals (?have broken out) in the hinterlands among the peasantry: Jean-Rabel, (Danty), Labadie—a bunch of scandals among the peasantry!

[Avril] But what happened is that there was an investigation conducted and published. However, back then, I did not know, and had not yet gotten involved in that kind of thing. But now, I need to look into these matters myself, in order to get into them specifically. I cannot say that I will put a stop in a single day to everything that has been going on since 1915—because these are structures that might be antiquated—not good any more. However, we must study the matter together in order not only to protect, and bring relief to the peasant, but also to find a way to provide him with some security.

I think that is how things have to be done. We are open to any suggestions—because to judge by the last 15 or 20 days, one would say the problem is going to get worse. It looks as if the situation is deteriorating. So it requires a solution—and perhaps a rapid solution, which might even (?come) before the elections. We are aware of the problem. We have discussed it somewhat. We are awaiting more information in order to meet, and decide exactly what we will do about the problem.

[Dominique] Speaking of elections, I remember last year, in 1987, there were many, many criminal acts committed in the communal sections of the Artibonite Valley—in order to prevent the peasants from participating in the elections, and to prevent them from registering and expressing their will as citizens. And, to show you the desire the peasants had to do this, every time there was a criminal incident, greater numbers of peasants hastened to register. There was a [words indistinct] desire, last year, in 1987.

[Avril] Yes. You must understand that last year is not this year. [Avril repeats himself] Last year is not this year. I cannot accuse people and say they received instructions or (?that) the structure was the cause. However, we are going to include this problem.... [changes thought] The way this problem is coming up, we will have to put it in our calendar, on our agenda, in order to resolve it, just as we have to solve all other matters involving security. Because if we have to hold an election, we don't want our elections to be like the elections that were held in the past. So that problem is now going to be resolved.

All I can say to you members of the media who get feedback [preceding word in English] from out there is that we are counting on you too—to give us accurate feedback, so we can take effective measures to solve the problem.

[Dominique] General, you have a natural source of feedback: the departmental commanding officer, who has the district commander under him, who in turn has the commander of the sub-district under him, and the latter is (?in place) and (?oversees) the section chiefs. If a message were sent down from the top through those positions and down to the enlisted men to the effect that from now on this business of stealing from peasants, pressuring, harassing, and abusing them, apart from the police and security matter, is over, I think that you would get feedback—because then the peasants would trust the sub-district commanders, and the district commanders, and the departmental commanders.

[Avril] Yes, instructions have been given to the commander in chief. And I am sure he has passed them down the line. But you know it takes a little time to be able to verify things so that you can arrive at the results you need. [passage omitted] We are even organizing squads of enlisted men to send to the scene to observe—whenever a case like this arises and to the extent that we can.

[Dominique] To conduct an investigation.

[Avril] No, not an investigation; rather, to take some kind of quick action. To go to the scene—because we do have to take certain precautions, in order not to have five or six people appear, and issue a message just so they can put a particular person into a particular position. We will send soldiers to observe the scene, so we can make the changes quickly and verify the accuracy of the demands. Because, as you know, a country is not a simple thing. There might also be forces at work wanting this or that position. Therefore, we must make certain there isn't anything political behind the demands; we must see if it really is the noble peasants who in good faith want us to make certain changes. [passage omitted] I will do whatever I can. The peasants can count on me, but they must keep in mind that I am not a definitive government capable of planning some good, long-term projects to change their condition. However, whatever I can do, I will. [passage omitted]

[Dominique] [Passage omitted] You said Haitians don't trust. I tell you that there are symbols. There are signals that must be sent out. For example the dossiers: 29 November, 11 September. [passage omitted]

[Avril] What I have to say about the dossiers is that first of all, I am going to begin making them public, so people can read them and see the extent of the work done; they can judge the work. Next, they should look to see what action was taken—because some dossiers came in and nothing was done with them. Regarding other dossiers, I am told the person was sent to court—but neither the press nor myself knows what after that. This is a way for me to pursue the matter again. [passage omitted] I am going to publish these dossiers [on the Athis and Volel murders]. Then I am going to await reaction. People are going to ask that the investigation be reconducted. People are going to ask why the investigation was not pursued further....

[Dominique, interrupting] You mean, (?the authorities)?

[Avril] Yes.

[Dominique] Judge them?

[Avril] That's the way investigations are. They give necessary facts and requires that the courts take action, to pursue the case. [passage omitted] So I am going to make public what I got, and this will permit public opinion to decide—to see whether an investigation was blocked, and if from what point it should be continued. And if the investigation is found to have not been thorough enough, we can reopen it.

[Dominique] I have a problem with this—because for the past 1 and ½ years, every time an investigation into a scandal or a murder or whatever is discussed, the Justice Department always tells you: Oh, no one has filed a complaint. Therefore, we cannot pursue the investigation. We cannot make any arrests. Only if someone files a complaint can we....

[Avril, interrupting] I found out something recently. For example, in connection with Mr Volel's death, I searched and searched, saying to myself: There cannot fail to be an investigation. I know there was an investigation. And so forth. And I saw that the Justice Department wrote asking, I think—I don't remember exactly—for the investigation. And I think I found that the police answered that it had already sent the investigation to the Justice Department.

It looks as if there were many things like this done- cases of criminals being found, and the criminal's name being sent to the Justice Department, and the police's saying that as far as it was concerned, it had finished doing its job. It is precisely all these kinds of things that I am going to look into again, to see how far an investigation had gone when it was blocked, and to find out why it was blocked, and to see how we can rectify what was done. [passage omitted] So I am going to make at least those three dossiers [Athis murder, Volel murder, and 29 November]—which I am sure exist—public, perhaps next week, so people can see what went on, the kind of work done by the people in charge, and the authorities reaction to the cases.

[Dominique] And what if at that point, the finger is pointed at A, or B, or C, General?

[Avril] That is the Justice Department's job!

I will send it to the Justice Department. That is the Justice Department's job. And it must do its job. It has to do its job.

[Dominique] So the representative of the Department of the Prosecutor, if there is someone [words indistinct]?

[Avril] He will have him arrested. That's his job. If we want to develop our society, everyone must shoulder his responsibilities; and a representative of the Department of the Public Prosecutor who gets a case like that and does not take the proper action should not be the Department of the Public Prosecutor's representative [passage omitted] Thus we are going to make the dossiers public, so everyone can see clearly that appropriate action will be taken. [passage omitted] And we will do it.

[Dominique] I think it is important to point out, in conclusion—because I don't want to take up too much of your time, General—that in regards to these dossiers, in the final analysis, you are leaving responsibility for [words indistinct] to the public, by making the dossiers public....

[Avril, interrupting] No! Not at all! Not at all! Not at all! Not at all! The dossiers bear signatures. [passage omitted] I am going to make them public because I consider investigations a part of the public domain. [passage omitted] The public must be informed about what happened, how it happened, and according, to the investigation results, who is responsible. After that, it is up to the Justice Department to determine if that individual is really responsible. [passage omitted]

[Dominique, speaking in French] The last question, Mr President. I know it is a question about which you, as a military man, are rather sensitive. [passage omitted] Has there been an investigation into the soldiers and noncommissioned officers arrested after 17 October?

[Avril, speaking in French] Yes, there is an ongoing investigation right now. It is being conducted by the Army General Headquarters. [passage omitted] Since the investigation is ongoing, I don't want to influence the officers conducting it, but everyone knows there was an attempt to turn the nation topsy turvy. It's not that I want to remain where I am, but I am sure—I was certain, and am still convinced—to have that kind of thing happen now will not be in Haiti's best interests. Because Haiti needs a truce, a kind of, how could I say, [switches to Creole] Haiti needs a break, now, to assess our future.

[Dominique, speaking in French] But, Mr President, people are wondering, after being in jail for 22 days—almost a month—why the charges against them have still not yet been clearly defined. It seems....

[Avril, interrupting, speaking in Creole] The charges must come out of an investigation. You might hear people in the streets saying there is a cover-up or something. But a charge is made by a committee of inquiry—not even an investigating committee. Investigating committees are not responsible for charges. They must send the investigation results to an examining magistrate so he can determine the charges. [switches to French] In this case however, it is a case for military justice. Therefore, the committee of inquiry formed by the General Headquarters must determine the charges and indictment against the alleged perpetrators. I mean, [switches to Creole] it isn't something that can be done lightly. Things must be well founded. You have to take a good look at all actions—everything anyone did, everyone they contacted, and so forth. All these things must be thoroughly established.

[Dominique, speaking in French] There were also officers discharged, fired, from the Army. Are they connected to what you call this destabilization attempt?

[Avril, speaking in French] The investigation being conducted on this matter [switches to Creole] will (?determine this matter) with regards to the action taken by the soldiers. But there are, how could I put it, there are perceptions, there are actions that the general staff might perceive as.... [changes thought] Which might lead them to feel that an individuals' presence is harmful to the institution. And this might justify certain measures they have taken—with a view to permitting the institution to hold on, to not fall into (?disarray).

[Remainder of interview is conducted in French]

[Dominique] Without there being a formal, specific charge against the officers [words indistinct].

[Avril] Please note that a discharged officer remains an Army cadre.

[Dominique] And can be called back into the Army cadres at any time.

[Avril] [Passage omitted] We might be obliged to separate the officer from the service for the good of the service, so that the service can function properly. [passage omitted]

[Dominique] The last question, a hot one this morning is: There was a raid recently by the Armed Forces' narcotics bureau; we learned that a certain amount of drugs had been turned over to the American authorities. We learned from the U.S. Embassy there had been a treaty, or agreement, signed between the United States and Haiti in connection with drugs. Unfortunately, the Haitian Government never mentioned this agreement; only the U.S. Embassy has mentioned it.

[Avril] Yes, there was an agreement, but it has mainly to do with equipment, to the tune of some $200,000, which the U.S. Government agreed to give the Haitian narcotics department; and (?it is) an agreement to cooperate in the struggle against narcotics. It isn't anything extraordinary. In fact, this is not the first time we have signed this agreement. It is an agreement that we have renewed.

The handing over of the seized cocaine is not specifically one of the terms of the agreement. I personally issued the instructions for us to get rid of this drug, cocaine, because we do not have the material means to eliminate the drug. Thus, I felt it was better for Haiti to get rid of it.

[Dominique] And yet there is a political organization [the Charlemagne Peralte National Liberation Front, headed by Gilles Michel Hendrick] that even published in a Port-au-Prince daily paper a denunciation of the fact that, as a function of this agreement, there was an implication of allowing a foreign power to infiltrate itself physically into our country through agents that it might be authorized to set directly in place, in our territory.

[Avril] No. No, no. No, no. We don't need an agreement. The latest agreement, for certain agents to come to Haiti to collaborate with the Haitian police in carrying out a police task, this is done in all countries. The different police forces cooperate internationally in seeking criminals. There is also the international police. The national police are members of the international police, and the agents [Avril's train of thought is interrupted by Dominique, who starts to interrupt] it is not very apparent, but it is done in all countries.

[Dominique] In other words, the situation of the Drug Enforcement Administration [preceding three words in English] agents circulating and operating in Haiti is not a special one? It is a routine thing?

[Avril] No, listen: It is not that they operate. They don't have the right to take action against Haitian nationals. They collaborate with the Haitian police. I mean, the police get information, classes, training, and so forth. But they don't participate in the operation itself. No.

[Dominique] So it is the national police that carries out operations. [Avril] That's right.

[Dominique] Thus there is no danger of agents of a foreign police being able to operate in Haiti?

[Avril] No, they may not operate in Haitian territory.

[Dominique] That's it. I thank you.

Finance Secretariat on Foreign Debt Interest

PA1511190788 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 14 Nov 88 p 17

[Summary] The Secretariat of Finance and Public Credit has reported that Mexico expects to pay $9.239 billion in foreign debt interest this year. This will be the largest debt service paid by Mexico in the past 3 years. This figure will be equivalent to 45 percent of this year's exports and 141.2-percent higher than the income from oil exports. In addition, the current accounts portion of the balance of payments will have a deficit of $1.724 billion by year's end, and trade will have decreased by 69.8 percent.

* Dissatisfaction With CNOP Leadership Voiced

32480033 Mexico City PROCESO in Spanish No 624, 17 Oct 88 pp 27-28

[Article by Elias Chavez]

[Text] Lacking strength and presence, the once powerful popular sector of PRI, the CNOP [National Confederation of Popular Organizations], has become a "political phantom" whose leaders ("bureaucrats bent on reaping personal benefits") are being left behind by the rank and file and will soon be called to account.

A group of CNOP critics and dissidents, representatives of what could become a new PRI faction or splinter group, have announced and asserted the following in an interview with PROCESO:

- Unless the CNOP changes, PRI will continue to suffer major defeats like the one this past 6 July. It could even very soon lose its status as the majority party.
- There have been no political ties between the government and the popular classes during this entire 6-year term.
- Owing to the incompetence of the national leader of the CNOP, Guillermo Fonseca Alvarez, and of the leader in the DF [Federal District], Carlos Jimenez Macias, the natural leaders of the professional associations and working-class colonias [urban communities] have been won over by the leftist and rightist opposition. This, among other reasons, is why PRI lost in the capital and in other major cities around the country.
- PRI will not be able to modernize unless the CNOP is transformed first. To achieve this transformation the dissident members of the CNOP will call a national assembly, at which they will demand that their leaders give an accounting of themselves.

The dissidents are coordinated by Arturo Oropeza, an engineer who has sat five times on the National Executive Committee of the CNOP and been adjunct secretary of the PRI General Secretariat and leader of the graduates of the IPN [National Polytechnic Institute]. Among the dissidents are:

Rafael de Celis, a former president of the Mexican Association of Engineers; Salvador Jimenez del Prado, a former senator and deputy and a former national leader of the merchants; Humberto Mateos Robles, a neurosurgeon and former federal deputy; Jose Renteria Gomez, an engineer and oil man; Amaro Rojas, a deputy from Coahuila; Professor Jesus Ruiz Barraza, a former president of PRI in Baja California; Carlos Arteaga, an official with the National Consumers Institute; Jose Antonio Rendon Padilla, a leader of college graduates in political science; and Humberto Acosta, a former mayor of Piedras Negras. All of them, moreover, have been members of the National Executive Committee of the CNOP.

And they have all been meeting with CNOP leaders in several states around the country to analyze the 6 July election results, Oropeza reports. They have come to the conclusion that PRI's fundamental problem was in urban areas, where the CNOP was supposedly the cornerstone of the party.

Besides in the Federal District, PRI was crushed, the CNOP dissidents acknowledge, in Guadalajara, San Luis Potosi, Merida, Morelia, Culiacan, Tijuana, Mexicali, Villahermosa, Cuernavaca, and other large cities.

In light of these results, Oropeza says:

"We are certain that the CNOP fell apart and became a phantom in national politics. The CNOP no longer represents the professional-association interests of its affiliates nor of the residents of working-class colonias. It has been a long time since it has defended small shopkeepers, truckers, and professionals, wage earners, lottery ticket vendors or shoeshine men. And if we analyze the organizations of professionals in the country, we will also see that none of their leaders has been nominated and defended by the CNOP to sit on any of the 35 PRI commissions in charge of drafting the working program of Carlos Salinas de Gortari. This is why we say that the CNOP has become a political phantom. It no longer even serves to promote or push its activists for administrative or popularly elected posts."

Most of the dissidents have been active in the CNOP for more than 25 years. This is also why they complain of newcomer opportunism and improvisation among many of its leaders. They explain that the majority of PRI's defeats in the recent elections came in urban areas, where the CNOP is supposedly PRI's strongest sector.

"What happened," Oropeza explains, "is that during the entire 6-year term the popular classes had no ties to PRI or to the government. Far from taking part in revolutionary actions, the popular classes broke up and vanished. It is thus urgent to regroup and strengthen them, because otherwise PRI will keep on suffering serious defeats and could very soon lose its status as the majority party."

As proof that the political strength of the CNOP is nonexistent, Oropeza and the dissidents mention that PRI lost in the 16th electoral district of the DF, where its national leader, Guillermo Fonseca Alvarez, was active. The same thing happened in the 33rd district, where the CNOP leader in the capital, Carlos Jimenez Macias, ran and lost.

The CNOP failed PRI in most of the capital-city districts, they recall. The leaders of the working-class colonias and of many professional associations swelled the ranks of the leftist opposition.

Something similar happened in other cities, like Guadalajara, only in this case the leaders of the working-class colonias moved over to the rightist opposition.

This is the big problem, they say, now facing the PRI candidate for governor of Jalisco, Guillermo Cosio Vidaurri, who will have to make use of all his talent and experience to win back the popular sector in Guadalajara.

Arturo Oropeza underscores that the disintegration of the CNOP began on 1 December 1982. "During all these years no CNOP leader has made revolutionary proposals or defended the positions of the popular sector. Nor has there been communication between our leaders and the government. Therefore, there has been no real CNOP support for PRI or the government."

The origin of the problem, according to the CNOP dissidents, is that the organization has become bureaucratic and that its leaders have put their personal ambitions above the interests of the professional associations and of the activists in general. "There is complete disregard for and lack of contact with the rank and file," Oropeza charges.

Moreover, the CNOP has ceased to be the standard-bearer of popular sector causes. Its bureaucratized leaders have placed these banners in the hands of the authorities or have allowed opposition parties to snatch them away. The authorities have, of course, at times taken up problems raised by professional associations or colonia residents, but because of the pressure and demands from them, not because of the organization or the political work that the CNOP is supposed to engage in.

"Tell me," asks Oropeza, "where, in what part of the Federal District or in the entire country is there a political struggle headed by the CNOP? Where?"

In the case of the DF, Oropeza says, the breakup of the CNOP has caused "all of the acts in defense of the party to be entrusted to our long-suffering street vendors. They defend all the cases, because we are practically no longer able to mobilize other professional associations. We turn to them, the street vendors, whenever there is a problem in the Chamber of Deputies or when some action by the government of the republic has to be supported. The CNOP has been reduced to that."

Owing to the lack of support and coordination, they add, once powerful popular organizations are currently dying or have already disappeared, such as the now defunct national organization of merchants or the national federation of colonia residents.

In light of this decay of the popular sector, the CNOP dissidents have announced that in a week they will call on all professional associations and popular organizations to demand a national assembly to review the program of action, the structure and the presence of the CNOP in PRI.

Oropeza has this to say about the structure of the CNOP:

"The CNOP bylaws provide that the governing body must be elected. Nevertheless, the heads of several departments have been arbitrarily removed, as in the Secretariat of Professionals and Technicians, which has changed heads more than 10 times and which even remained without a head in the thick of the election campaign."

As for the 35 commissions in charge of drafting Carlos Salinas de Gortari's government program, the CNOP dissidents assert that these commissions have no political strength because their members are not representative. They even complain, for example, that the engineers association cannot put forth its views because it does not have access to these commissions and that the same is the case with the graduates of the IPN and, in general with any other professional association affiliated with PRI. "We lack strength and presence," they say.

And as an example of the inactivity and ineffectiveness of the CNOP leaders, Oropeza mentions one fact:

"It has now been more than 3 months since the popular sector and PRI were harshly attacked, during the campaign, by the leftist and rightist opposition. Nevertheless, the National Executive Committee of our sector has so far not made any decision, much less has it undertaken any action, to regroup the popular forces. And in light of the inactivity of our leaders, the opposition is taking advantage of and relying on the activists of the popular sector to combat PRI."

Given the danger that the CNOP leadership may not heed the demands of the dissidents, Oropeza reports that based on the bylaws the rank-and-file organizations could call a national assembly at which "not only could the leaders be removed but a more important job could get done: a regrouping of all organizations and giving them their proper place in PRI."

And as for the government that will take office this 1 December, the CNOP dissidents caution:

"Politics may not be fundamental in the decisionmaking of the planning and budget process. But governing without it is not possible. Governing must be done with politics, not with administration."

El Salvador

CD Communique Criticizes Government, FMLN

PA1411152688 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 12 Nov 88 p 29

[Communique issued by the Democratic Convergence (CD) in San Salvador on 12 Nov; words appearing in all caps as published]

[Text] I. A PREVIOUS MATTER

The national security doctrine and its strategy of a low-intensity war represent, for the groups in power, the basis and justification for the state of war that prevails in our homeland.

Under this viewpoint, a majority sector of the population is considered "the internal enemy to be fought." Therefore, the PSYCHOLOGICAL WAR is one of the instruments most preferred by the government strategists whose goal is the adversary's moral destruction through ideological manipulation and propagandistic misrepresentation of facts.

Within that psychological war, the CD being systematically attacked by government officials and high-ranking Armed Forces officers whose "intelligence plans" involve siding with the extreme right, insulting us, and spreading slander that would be a laughing matter if it did not represent a mortal risk.

II. THE CD STRUGGLES FOR PEACE

The CD was created 1 year ago as a specific need and goal: to become the instrument that fills a political void and an alternative for the people; and from that viewpoint, to create favorable conditions for a broad agreement between the country's various social and political groups, thus attaining a national consensus for a peaceful solution through a dialogue and negotiation.

Experience has taught us that injustice and repression are the main reasons for the state of war that has prevailed in the country for 8 years. We are also convinced that the human rights violations that have been systematically perpetrated en masse—both in the past and the present—by the regime's military and paramilitary forces, have greatly helped extend the armed conflict. This situation has severely affected the poor and downtrodden people.

The CD is convinced that the achieverment of peace represents an urgent need and an unavoidable responsibility. Also, democracy and respect for human rights are an inseparable part of the peace we all hope to achieve.

III. THE PEACE DILEMMA

There are two ways to attain peace: the military way and the negotiated way. Salvadorans only have these two alternatives.

The CD strongly rejects the military solution to extend the conflict that has been imposed on us by U. S. strategy. We rightfully reject the extermination scheme proposed by certain right-wing fanatics in the "Total War" plan.

The Salvadoran people also have opted for a POLITICAL SOLUTION to the conflict. The conclusions of the national debate organized by the Catholic Church have overwhelmingly proved this

The CD is actively sponsoring a negotiated peace. We all suffer the tragedies of the conflict and consequently, all the people's organized sectors must participate and play a decisive role in the battle for peace

IV. RESPECT FOR CIVILIAN POPULATION AND DE-ESCALATION OF WAR

The civilian population suffers the most disastrous consequences in every war. Nevertheless, the parties in conflict have the obligation to minimize such a plight as much as possible and to respect the noncombatant population. Based on the above, the CD REJECTS AND CONDEMNS ALL THE EXPRESSIONS OR ACTIONS OF WAR THAT ARE DIRECTLY AND SPECIFICALLY AIMED AT THE CIVILIAN POPULATION.

Respect for human rights allows no exceptions in its enforcement. The Geneva Accords are valid and viable for either party even though only the government has signed them. The accords represent a legal obligation for the government, but the FMLN is also morally and politically pledged to abide by them.

Therefore, we strongly repudiate and condemn:

— Massacres of civilians, such as the San Sebastian massacre, which was perpetrated by government troops, and the use of psychological and physical torture against citizens.

—Air Force artillery attacks and bombings that injure the civilian population, even in conflict-ridden zones.

—"Car-bombs" or bombs in cars directly aimed at targets within the civilian population or that might cause critical and generalized damage to noncombatants.

—Execution of civilian officials because of their civil functions.

—Security corps' repressive actions against unions, federations, popular organizations' members and offices.

—Bombs and armed attacks on political parties' headquarters and government officials' or politicians' residences.

All this must be stopped. It is the first step to de-escalate the war.

The CD platform proposes a firm and specific way to attain a negotiated political solution. We know it is not easy, but it is necessary and morally just.

A CEASE-FIRE between the government's military forces and the FMLN forces is necessary prior to and within the process for the achievement of an overall peaceful solution.

We propose as the first step the achievement of an agreement to de-escalate the war—in other words, the intensity of the fight—by agreeing to suspend the air attacks, the use of long-range artillery, the use of land mines, and economic sabotage.

All this has a political and humanitarian purpose. First, it is aimed at encouraging the use of political instruments instead of military measures, and the two parties involved must set aside certain strategic weapons. Second, the de-escalation of the armed conflict will sensibly diminish the destructive effects of the war on the population, because those are the four instruments of war that affect the noncombatant civilians the most.

This is the CD position and specific proposal. We are sure the immense majority of our people support it. CD NATIONAL REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT, POPULAR SOCIAL CHRISTIAN MOVEMENT, SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY San Salvador, 12 November.

FMLN Issues Communique on Unilateral Truce

PA1311022488 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0010 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Communique issued by the FMLN General Command on 11 November; place not given]

[Text] The FMLN hereby announces its General Command's decisions regarding the OAS foreign ministers' meeting in San Salvador.

The FMLN began a military campaign on 13 September by attacking the 4th Infantry Brigade, which is one of six Armed Forces brigades and is located 65 km from San Salvador. As of today, our forces have carried out numerous political and military actions. They have penetrated and either partially or totally occupied 12 cities in economically important areas. They have successfully attacked over 20 important Salvadoran Army positions and headquarters. There have been dozens of raids and over 90 ambushes, mostly on strategic highways. During the military campaign, they have downed two helicopters and have damaged three more. In addition, they have staged over 40 important urban attacks, including an attack on the National Guard headquarters in San Salvador, in which the Army sustained numerous casualties. In the last 60 days, our forces have inflicted (?500) casualties.

The continuity, volume, and quality of these military actions—as well as the extension of our battlefield into San Salvador and almost all other cities—have given us the clear advantage in the war, and have forced the Salvadoran Army to make substantial changes in its defense system.

The increase in quantity and quality of our forces' military activities falls within a framework of social and political instability. This instability is evident in the division within the Christian Democratic Party, in an increasing wave of popular unrest, in the increase of human rights violations, in the Army and government's repression, in the Army's changes of command, in the battle for the Army's control between the oligarchy and the United States, in the government's failed economic policy, in the extreme increase in poverty, and in the confrontational and destabilizing electoral process. After 8 years of war, $3 billion from the United States, the quadrupling of the Army, the genocide of 50,000 Salvadorans, and the exodus of 1 million Salvadorans because of the bombings and massacres, we can conclude that the Reagan administration's policy has failed in El Salvador.

It is in the midst of this situation that the FMLN and the FDR, together with the people's democratic and progressive forces, have emerged and clearly become a power emanating from a working and cumulative process, as opposed to other [words indistinct] quickly.

Bearing in mind the importance of the situation in El Salvador, Central America, and Latin America, the constant peace efforts for a political solution to the [Central American] conflict, and the foreign ministers' meeting to be held in El Salvador this November, the FMLN feels it is important to make known the following:

1. The FMLN, as a gesture of [word indistinct] to the security of the OAS foreign ministers' meeting, to be held in San Salvador, will suspend the military campaign it has been carrying out by declaring a 5-day unilateral truce during the foreign ministers' meeting. The truce will be in effect throughout the nation and will apply to all types of offensive actions. Our forces will be limited to defending themselves if they are attacked. The truce will begin at 1800 on 13 November and will end at 1800 on 18 November.

2. The FMLN asks all governments participating in the meeting to intercede to stop repression and human rights violations in El Salvador, put an end to U.S. intervention in the conflict, and promote a solution among Salvadorans that will do away with the underlying causes of the war and that will recognize the FMLN as a political and military power.

3. The FMLN calls upon the Salvadoran Government and Armed Forces to respond to this gesture with a similar measure.

4. The FMLN once again reaffirms its willingness to hold a dialogue without preconditions with [words indistinct].

[Signed] FMLN General Command, 11 November 1988.

Rebels Reportedly Inflict 17 Casualties
PA1411034288 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0010 GMT 14 Nov 88

["War Bulletin" issued by the General Command of the Francisco Sanchez Northeastern Front; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] We advise the people that as of the early evening on Saturday, 12 November, combined FMLN troops, regular units, urban commandos, militias, and insurrentional units launched a military maneuver in the city of San Miguel and all the northern area of San Miguel Department. The principal target of our attack were Arce Battalion troops in Sesori.

Urban commandos staged guerrilla operations in San Miguel while insurrectional units staged propaganda activities and harassed various neighborhoods. At 2300, our forces, supported by artillery fire, attacked units of the Arce Battalion in positions both near and inside Sesori in San Miguel Department. Our units attacked all enemy positions, while at the same time other units occupied the town of San Luis de la Reina, staging revolutionary propaganda activity. At the same time insurrectional units and sapper battalions barricaded the highway between Ciudad Barrios and the Pan-American Highway and destroyed nine electricity towers. Also, Dagoberto Soto urban commandos set off explosive charges in the Salvadoran Air Transport facilities and sabotaged electricity installations near the Hawai Restaurant in the city of San Miguel. [passage omitted]

As a result of this political - military maneuver, specifically the fighting in Sesori, we inflicted 17 casualties on the enemy. Our forces seized 12 M-16 rifles, 1,056 5.56-mm cartridges, a cartridge belt with 200 bullets, 5 knapsacks, several uniforms, and other military materiel.

The FMLN Francisco Sanchez Northeastern Front greets and congratulates the FMLN leaders and fighters who participated in this new military maneuver, and calls on all our people to strengthen the struggle against the Christian Democratic military dictatorship. Against hunger and repression, let us prepare the insurrection. [Signed] General Command of the Francisco Sanchez Northeastern Front 13 November 1988

Honduras

Party Leader on Need To Review Economic Plans
PA1111221188 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras in Spanish 1120 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Statement by National Party of Honduras leader Rafael Leonardo Callejas; date and place not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] Although I have the necessary data to support my view regarding the economy, I want to reiterate that Honduras' foreign debt per capita in 1976 was 396 lempiras; in 1988, it is 1,500 lempiras. These are real figures; we are not trying to change the statistics that are very important for our country. I am not reporting this as a criticism. Rather, I am saying this because I am worried.

The current economic system is exhausted. There are no sources to generate new energy for a transformation process. We must redirect the country's efforts in the production and social aspects. It is necessary to change the organization of Honduran society. The economic reports we have seen are very worrying. Despite other views, I believe inflation is already reaching the point where it is worrying Honduran people. In the past few months, we have gone from a 6-percent inflation rate to a 12- to 15-percent inflation rate. The lempira on the black market is probably currently 3.5 lempiras to the dollar. I maintain my criteria that the 1989 economic plans should be based on a very serious fiscal austerity policy. We cannot let ourselves be carried away by vain promises. We need practical actions. It is urgent for all sectors in the country, with the president or without the president, to hold a dialogue on the problems lying ahead.

The Honduran president, because of his inherent leadership, is responsible for the national dialogue. However, if there is a void, there are institutions willing to hold a dialogue before the 1989 budget is approved, to establish restrictions on public expenditures in the 1989 plans and thus the 1990 plans. We are in the process of studying the national budget. Among other things, we will make serious commitments regarding the new budget law. For example, it is necessary to restrict overdrafts. It is a banking law. It is the Central Bank's law, but there still are overdrafts in the country's accounts. Therefore, it is necessary to document the overdrafts; it is necessary to document the debts of the autonomous institutions with the private financial sector; it is necessary to avoid the creation of new jobs in the public sector; it is necessary to reduce the bureacracy's expenditures; it is necessary to define the future in 1989 based on an absolute and firm fiscal policy. [passage omitted]

Propaganda Bomb Explodes in La Ceiba 12 Nov
PA1511001688 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1520 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 14 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—Tegucigalpa police today reported that a bomb containing anti-U.S. propaganda, presumably made with "C-4" plastic explosives, exploded Saturday evening in La Ceiba, on the Honduran Atlantic coast. There were no casualties.

The powerful bomb, which was hidden in a telephone distribution box in front of an Evangelical church a few meters from a radio station, caused some slight structural damage and left part of La Ceiba without communications.

The police reported that remains of propaganda from the "People's Morazanist Front" (FPM) urban subversive group, which emerged in 1979 and has claimed responsibility for several dynamite attacks, were found at the explosion site.

Propaganda found among the remains reads: "The people of Honduras must maintain a favorable attitude toward Nicaragua, struggle for the withdrawal of U.S. troops from the nation, and assume an aggressive attitude toward them."

Part of the propaganda incites the people to stage armed attacks against U.S. troops, who have been stationed in the country since 1982, when an intense program of joint military maneuvers involving Honduran troops began.

The propaganda also states: "Kill a gringo and exercise sovereignty."

Nicaragua

Ortega Details Hurricane Damage, Losses

PA1511202088 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1803 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Speech by President Daniel Ortega at an extraordinary session of the National Assembly in Managua—live; broadcast in progress]

[Text] The damage caused by Hurricane Joan has seriously affected our economy. I have noted on other occasions the importance of the Nicaraguan people's massive effort to face this natural disaster. We have also pointed out the role of the EPS, not only in the military defense of the revolution but also in efforts to protect the Nicaraguan people from natural disasters such as this hurricane.

We have also mentioned the cooperation of Nicaraguans of various political and ideological beliefs in facing the hurricane. They viewed the situation as a national problem and adopted a patriotic, responsible attitude.

We have estimated that the hurricane has caused damage amounting to $828,226,100. We are referring to the direct losses caused by the hurricane. We are not taking into consideration the damage to our forests and the environment. We are not including indirect damage. We have been concentrating our efforts on estimating the damage to our already weak social and economic infrastructures and in other areas of our economy and society. These estimated losses amount to $828,226,100.

Losses in our infrastructure come to $718,301,000. This can be broken down into the following:

Damage to the social infrastructure: $414,401,500; that is, 50 percent of the total losses estimated so far.

Damage to the economic infrastructure: $198,458,500; that is, 24 percent of the total losses.

Damage to the production sector: $76,749,600.

Damage in other sectors of our infrastructure: $28,691,400.

Other losses were absorbed by the Army and the Interior Ministry. Reserve supplies had to be used to feed the population in areas where food could not be delivered because of the effects of the hurricane.

We have also included the cost of the services rendered by the Sandinist Air Force for providing the surface [as heard] transportation required to evacuate and feed the population and the cost of damage inflicted by the hurricane on some Army and Interior Ministry buildings in the affected zones.

Losses in production total $98,906,004. This is 11.9 percent of total losses.

The infrastructure has been damaged the most. The damage to the infrastructure is 86.8 percent [figure as heard] of total losses, while 11.9 percent of production has been lost.

The damage sustained by production is very significant, however, because the supply of food, particularly basic grains, has been affected. This is because peasants constitute the majority of the population, with the exception of some towns, such as Rio Sucio and Renaime, that are involved in both agricultural and fishing production.

In this latter area, we sustained a loss of $98,906,400. The agricultural and livestock sector sustained a loss of $89,731,200; the fishing sector, $8,188,105; mining, $159,800—most mining is carried out by residents of La Libertad in the Chontales area—the manufacturing industry, $851,000; and commerce, $75,100. The direct losses that the hurricane inflicted on the population total $11,018,700. Losses to the infrastructure total $718,301,000, or 86.8 percent of total losses; production, $98,906,400 or 11.9 percent; personal losses, $20,018,700 or 1.3 percent. This results in a grand total of $828,226,200. [all figures as heard]

The areas most seriously affected were Region 1; that is, La Guinea, Chontales, and Boaco, where damage amounted to 29.41 percent of the country's total losses. In the South Atlantic area, where the hurricane hit with the greatest force, the damage amounted to 25.48 percent; in Region 6, 23.2 percent. These are the three most seriously affected regions. The damage was less in the other regions. In Region 1, [the damage was] 3.96 percent [of total damage]; Region 2, 3.45 percent; Region 3, 4.31 percent.

In Region 4 there was substantial damage, 10.99 percent; in Special Region 3, 2.20 percent; it is only in the South Atlantic and the North Atlantic that we did not suffer great losses from the direct impact of the hurricane. In these areas however, there were hurricane-related expenses because we had to evacuate the residents of Puerto Cabezas and towns along the banks of the Coco River and other rivers that would flood as the hurricane approached. We have not yet calculated the ecological

damage. We hope the contributions and donations arriving in the next few days from friendly countries will help to establish the amount of lumber lost in forests leveled by the hurricane. We have not been able to measure the damage done in the countryside. The specialists from the Institute of National Resources [IRENA] and other interested comrades have been addressing this issue; they have informed us that the damage is truly serious.

The most seriously affected sections of the population are, therefore, peasants in Regions 5 and 6, and in the South Atlantic area. What does this mean? That these peasants lost their homes, their equipment, and their corn crops. They were left with nothing and they need equipment to work the land. In my first meeting with the peasants they told us they need equipment to work with. They are not asking us to give them the equipment; they requested that the banks readjust their debts and [words indistinct] immediately so they can begin to work, and we agreed.

The people directly affected by the hurricane number 231,542 people, 38,538 families. Of those 38,538 families, approximately 20,000 are peasant families producing basic grain. The hurricane, however, also had an indirect effect on approximately 40,000 peasant families in Regions 5 and 6. Although these peasants did not lose their homes, they were isolated and they lost their crops. Others did not lose their entire crops but they lost their homes, or their homes were damaged. Some peasants suffered minor or major damage or suffered no direct damage, but they were isolated.

During a recent visit to Wiwili, I found that several towns had been isolated; they are still isolated. These are towns where peasants live. These peasants grow basic grains and coffee. We were able to help those people by setting up an air bridge. We used the EPS and Sandinist Air Force's Soviet-made MI-17 helicopters to take food to those people. We saved the lives of thousands of Nicaraguans with those helicopters. Without those helicopters, it would have been impossible to get to the thousands of Nicaraguans who were isolated by the floods. Therefore, the Soviet-made MI-17 helicopters are not only useful in defending ourselves from Yankee aggression, but also in defending the people from damage caused by the hurricane.

When we speak of the people who were directly or indirectly affected by the hurricane in Region 5, Region 6, and the South Atlantic region, we are speaking of the people who grow the food that all Nicaraguans eat. The beans, corn, basic grains, and plantains they grow were affected, damaged, or destroyed by the hurricane. This means Nicaraguan food producers have been affected by the hurricane. We are talking about some 38,588 families directly affected by the hurricane, plus the 40,000 peasant families who live in those regions that were indirectly affected by the hurricane. We are talking about 78,588 families, almost 500,000 Nicaraguans who have, in some way or another, been affected. These families may be willing to work and produce, but they do not have the seeds they need to get their (?autumn) crop started. They lost all the seeds they had for their (?autumn) crop; they have no seeds to plant and feed themselves or to sell.

With international help, in this case Sweden, we were able to buy these seeds and get them shipped immediately. As you know, we are running out of time. However, as you know, not all the peasants in my country can plant (?autumn) crops. Most of our peasants have to wait for the normal planting season in May, for the early planting season. These peasants have to wait until May to start working. We will also need to get them the seeds they need to start working. We must also supply them with the equipment they need to produce. We must supply them with food while they get ready to produce. We must give them the materials they need to rebuild their homes. All this must be done with money, more money than Nicaragua has.

Under present circumstances, we have an obligation to concentrate resources there first. If we have to choose between providing building materials to an affected urban population and an affected rural community, then we must first give those materials to the rural community.

If we have to [words indistinct] foreign exchange, or lines of credit, or donations, foreign operations, to distribute funds that are [words indistinct] in different sectors, we are first going to provide those resources to the peasants, so as to [words indistinct] the peasants' production of staple grains, and food, because without that we are dead. Without that, the entire country is dead. Without that, the entire country's activities are paralyzed. Therefore, we have to concentrate our efforts, our resources, our capabilities, so peasants who are already planting in [words indistinct] might become more or less stable. The peasants who planted in [words indistinct] are becoming stable. They will no longer be regarded as totally helpless, because they will be producing basic grains, they will be selling those grains, and they will have a little left over to feed themselves, as well as first-class seed for a new crop. However, the majority of peasants will have to wait until May before they can plant, and they will not be able to work normally until August. And I mean normally as compared to the difficulties faced by our country. By then the peasants will be back to normal, [words indistinct]. The peasants will be harvesting, marketing their crops. They will have their own stock of food. Thus, [words indistinct] becomes a very important immediate goal, to be able to take care of the affected peasant population, so the peasants will be able to produce basic grains, because it is the peasant who produces basic grains for Nicaraguans, and it is the government who distributes and markets grains for all Nicaraguans. Therefore, we must concentrate our efforts and resources in this area.

In addition, we must make credit more adaptable, more flexible, and more aggressive, without getting too bogged down at this point in the policies we have defended, applied, and used this year. That does not mean renouncing our [words indistinct] economic policies.

Banks have already been instructed to implement economic measures to help peasants; to restructure their debts and make immediately available to them the credits needed to continue operating and working.

Data pertaining to the affected population in this very important and vital production segment indicate that for the next 10 months, until August [as heard], we will be facing a very tense situation in our efforts to distribute food and basic grains.

This tension will diminish if we have a fair harvest and if the country receives international support. The hurricane produced another kind of damage, one that we must take care of quickly. We are working on it already. I am talking about the damage done to land and water transportation. Land transportation in Region 6 was seriously damaged, and water transportation in Rama and Bluefields was seriously damaged. This directly affects production; the coffee harvest is approaching. To avoid having those coffee regions remain isolated, we have to get to those coffee regions, we have to rebuild roads, we have to repair bridges, we have to get across rivers where bridges were destroyed, and we have to get that coffee harvest out. This year's coffee crop is definitely larger than last year's. Coffee is our largest agricultural source of foreign exchange.

We have an obligation to obtain resources. Our investment plan did not anticipate having to repair roads in Region 5 to the extent that has to be done now, but now we have to do so.

We will have to review our investment plan. We have to reorient it so investments are made in areas that are vital to the country's economy.

There are some matters about which we will be giving you clearer details, but I want to emphasize some points now. For example, with regard to damage to the infrastructure, this damage totals $414,400,000 million. This amount can be broken down as follows: Housing, $273 million; educational infrastructure, $88,900,000; health infrastructure, $19,400,000; sewer and water systems, $600,000; social security infrastructure, $1,700,000. [all figures as heard]

The damage done to the economic infrastructure includes transportation, $194 million; energy, [word indistinct]; and communications, $700,000. When we speak of transportation, we are speaking about the destruction of roads, bridges, and ports.

Regarding the [words indistinct] the farming sector registered damage of $49.6 million, the fishing sector registered damage of $14.9 million, and the enterprise sector registered damage for $12.2. million.

Regarding the fishing industry, we have counted on the positive response of Norway and Spain—although perhaps I am forgetting some other countries—but the truth is we have had support from other countries to help us promptly recover the capacity we had before the hurricane.

[Announcer interrupts to give information concerning the place from which this transmission is originating, the speaker's name, the occasion of the speech].

...the hurricane damage has affected the Nicaraguan economy very seriously; by this I mean the enormously tense economic situation before the hurricane has now been worsened. We, however, are not talking about a simple arithmetic addition of the damage caused by the hurricane. The idea is not only to add up the $12.2-billion damage caused by U.S. aggression and the approximately $800-million hurricane damage. That is simple addition, whereas the damage also has a multiplying and geometric character. The impact of the hurricane had a qualitative effect—I know I am using a much-used expression—but we are not talking about quantitative damage. The problem is not merely to add the $12.2-billion damage caused by U.S. aggression in the past 8 years to the $828.2-million hurricane damage. That is not the problem.

When the earthquake occurred in Nicaragua we did not merely calculate the damage quantitatively. The earthquake caused $800 million in damage to Nicaragua, but it also had qualitative and geometric effects.

The damage caused to the Nicaraguan economy during the final phase of the struggle against the Somozist dictatorship totaled $481 million, so that at the beginning of the revolution we faced qualitative damage caused by the earthquake and by the final phase of the war of liberation.

[Words indistinct] to add $800 million plus $481 million and say the country suffered $1.2 billion worth of damage as if that addition [words indistinct]. Occurrences such as earthquakes and hurricanes have another kind of effect; not a quantitative effect, but a qualitative effect.

Therefore, when we began the revolution in 1979 we started with a deeply depressed, weak economy, but we still talked about the country's reconstruction. During the 8 years of U.S. aggression, we have suffered $12.2 billion in damage, and that figure also represents qualitative damage. [Words indistinct] added in a simple manner to the damage caused by the earthquake, by the war of liberation, by the [word indistinct] which was $350 million, and now by the hurricane, which is $828.2 million.

The $828.2 million in damage caused by the hurricane is equivalent to 2 years' GNP; that is the equivalent cost. Adding it all up, we get a total of $14,659,200,000—but we are not interested in the quantitative amounts, except as a point of reference. The qualitative effects of these blows on any country are of a different nature.

A total of 137 people were killed and 185 were injured by the hurricane, and the figure is still being updated; 119 are still reported missing. Efforts to (?cope with) the hurricane included the evacuation of 321,372 people, many of whom are still living in shelters.

When such disasters occur one calls for internal solidarity because it involves the actual survival of the nation and the population. If the nation does not survive... [corrects himself] If the population does not survive and disappears, then the people will have no opportunity to criticize the government or engage in anti-government politics. If the country, the population, and the economy disappear in a natural disaster, or in a war like the one provoked by the United States, or in an invasion like the one the United States might carry out, then the nation's interests are at stake.

All the political opportunities and the possibility of [word indistinct] those political opportunities... [changes thought] The political opportunities exist, yet you hear people say there are no political opportunities in Nicaragua, that there is no freedom, no freedom of expression, and that human rights are violated. All the opportunities to state your views and criticisms would disappear because the population would disappear.

That is why it is normal and natural for the people to unite and close ranks when these disasters occur. The people set aside their political and ideological differences and work together to rebuild the country and overcome any disaster. This is the attitude all Nicaraguans should adopt to counter the Yankee aggression; it is the attitude all Nicaraguans should adopt to overcome disasters like the hurricane.

Similarly, when a given country faces a natural disaster that affects the population, other nations send assistance, setting aside political and ideological differences. This has represented our unchanging attitude, but the situation following the hurricane was exceptional.

The U.S. Government, in an attitude that clearly shows its scorn for the Nicaraguan people, has at no time offered real humanitarian aid to the Nicaraguan people. The only humanitarian aid approved by the Yankee government, the powerful Yankees, is the aid we all know of, the aid it has approved for the criminal Somozist guards so they can continue killing the people even during and after a hurricane.

The Yankee government, in an attitude that shows its hatred for the Nicaraguan people, never thought of offering any aid to the Nicaraguan people. The Yankee government and the Nicaraguan Government have formal relations. There is a U.S. Embassy in Nicaragua and there is a Nicaraguan Embassy in Washington. There are diplomatic channels. There is not even the pretext that there are no relations between the United States and Nicaragua. These relations do exist. There are relations. They are bad relations, but they exist.

However, we received no messages from the Yankee government. The Yankee government, which has spent hundreds of millions of dollars to supply and finance the Somozist guards who kill peasants, who kill the Nicaraguan people, was incapable under these circumstances—because of its selfishness, haughtiness, and arrogance—to offer real humanitarian aid to the Nicaraguan people. The Yankee congress did approve $100 million for the contras. It approved [number indistinct] million dollars, and it had approved $80 million before, adding up to hundreds of millions of dollars. However, the Yankee government was not capable of acting conscienciously by offering, at least once, real humanitarian aid to Nicaragua.

Other governments have also tried to condition their aid on internal decisions that the Nicaraguan Government must make. That is not in keeping with what has been and should be the attitude of a government that maintains relations with another government facing a difficult situation like ours.

But in spite of the Yankee government's attitude, in spite of the attitude of some governments that try to condition their aid to Nicaragua, solidarity was evident immediately. The Cuban Government opened an air bridge with 22 flights and brought 463 metric tons of food to the Nicaraguan people. Then, in 36 flights, the Governments of Mexico, Italy, the GDR, the FRG, Panama, the Dominican Republic, Spain, the USSR, Czechoslovakia, Argentina; the FRG Red Cross; the Governments of El Salvador, Costa Rica, Canada, Great Britain; the (?Salvadoran) Red Cross; private volunteer organizations from the United States, [word indistinct], the United Nations, Guatemala, [word indistinct]—all of this by air, in 36 flights—brought to Nicaragua a total of 478.7 metric tons of aid. In other words, in 22 flights, Cuba brought 463 metric tons, while the other countries brought 478.7 metric tons in 36 flights. We must also take into consideration the distances involved.

Undoubtedly, we must value the attitude of Cuba, which brought just about as much assistance as the other countries did, in 22 flights.

Private organizations from Belgium, Norway, England, Holland, the EEC, and the United States—such as religious organizations—sent 2,082.4 metric tons by sea and land.

This was a total of 3,024.1 metric tons as of yesterday, 14 November. A total of 3,024.1 metric tons to handle the emergency, to provide the people with food, clothing, and medicine. The Nicaraguan Government—through the national emergency committee—has received a total of 2,815.9 metric tons of aid. The Red Cross has received 128.1 metric tons, and CEPAD [Evangelical Committee for Development Aid] 80 tons.

Out of these 2,815.9 metric tons, the Nicaraguan Government has already distributed over 2,000 metric tons. We have distributed exactly 73 percent [figure as heard] of what has been delivered to the Nicaraguan Government.

That 73 percent has already been given to Nicaraguans in different regions and places where aid was required. In other words, we have distributed 2,055.83 metric tons of the 2,815 metric tons of aid received by the government.

Refugees of Special Zone 3, in Managua's South Atlantic region, received 69.74 metric tons; Region 4, 144.22 metric tons; Region 5, 569.60 metric tons; Region 6, 75.59 metric tons; the South Atlantic area, including Bluefields, Corn Island, and Kukra—that entire area that was severely affected—1,022.21 metric tons; Special Zone 13, 121 metric tons, and on a national level through the Health Ministry, 48.30 tons...[Ortega corrects himself] 43.30 metric tons. This is a total of 2,055.83 metric tons [figure as heard]. That is, we have already distributed 73 percent of the aid received as of yesterday.

As aid has been arriving, we have been immediately distributing it. The problem is that despite all the aid we are receiving, the aid required by this tragedy makes that aid look minimal, too little.

However, we value this aid; we see it as humanitarian aid from world peoples and governments; government and religious organizations who are very interested in helping the NIcaraguan people in these difficult moments, in this moment when the blow of the hurricane has caused profound harm to our country.

I must also point out that friendly governments and people—the Socialist community; Western Europe, including Italy, Sweden, Finland, Norway, Spain; and others—are displaying very positive attitudes. They are showing a willingness to help us. They already agreed to send missions to Nicaragua to assess the damage and increase their cooperation with Nicaragua.

When the alarm was issued about the threat of the hurricane on 20 October, when it was clear that the hurricane was going to hit Nicaragua and we did not know what the consequences would be, we decided to establish a state of emergency for 30 days. This was done to face the coming danger, to be able to prepare for it in the best possible conditions within our country's legal framework, and after the hurricane passed to be able to take the appropriate measures to face the disaster.

Without underestimating the damage caused by the hurricane, I feel that the reason that led to issuing the state of emergency decree—which was to confront the phenomenon that was to directly hit our country—has already disappeared. Therefore, effective immediately, I declare the suspension of the state of emergency.

However, the truth is our country is experiencing a situation of political crisis with regard to the U.S. Government. This has greatly damaged Nicaraguans' lives. There have been more than 54,000 victims and more than $12.2 billion in losses as a result of the Yankee war of aggression. This is linked to a permanent, an extraordinary, state of emergency, to a state of war.

We have been facing the Yankee aggression, sometimes resorting to a state of emergency, other times lifting it. In reality, the emergency has been present in the conscience of our people for as long as they have been suffering the onslaught of U.S. aggression.

Our people, all of us, have been experiencing a permanent emergency. If on 20 October we resorted to a state of emergency in the face of the approaching hurricane, that did not mean we were not experiencing an emergency prior to 20 October. We were experiencing an emergency. We have been experiencing an emergency all these years of confrontation with the Yankee government. We resorted to the use of this legal instrument to face the phenomenon to which I am referring [words indistinct]. For this reason, I believe that at this time, the state of emergency should be lifted.

I wish to urge all Nicaraguans to act in keeping with our current difficult situation, which has been worsened by the hurricane. We must keep in mind that the war of aggression, along with the erosion of our economy, has forced us to implement economic measures to defend our economy, to try to contain inflation; not stop it, but decrease its rate of increase.

As the hurricane was forming off the Colombian coast, when it was still a tropical storm, we were discussing and evaluating economic measures in order to make the proper adjustments. We know these measures demand greater discipline, rationality, coherence, and willingness from all economic sectors in our country.

We knew workers, peasants, technicians, and professionals had supported and defended these measures. There were also some producers who, even though they usually disagree with government policies, did agree with these government economic measures. However, there were some, who, as instruments of Yankee policies, had the task of sabotaging, questioning, and weakening the economic policies we were implementing.

It was when we were evaluating the economic measures, which consisted of two phases. [sentence as heard] The first phase was the change of currency in February, when the measures had not yet been tested and when estimates of the rate of exchange and inflation were far below actual figures. At that time we were taking a very important step in establishing a survival economy that could guarantee the health of all productive sectors needed for the simple development of our country's economy.

Reality told us that inflation and the exchange rates were higher. We have been implementing this policy since June. In October, when we were evaluating the effects of our policies and when we were making some progress in the implementation of our policies, there was some tension because we had to face the natural [words indistinct] of companies making inventories, of people

with little purchasing power. We were working on a way to increase the people's purchasing power and therefore to [words indistinct] of the products sold by businesses.

Along came the hurricane and we were faced with different problems. The damage caused by the hurricane made us closely review the economic policies we had been implementing since February and that we had stepped up in June. When we talk about this figure, when we talk about $828 million in direct losses caused by the hurricane, we are talking about damage that hurts the economic policies we had been implementing. Our task cannot now be subject to the guidelines, to all the steps, that we had been taking as a result of those economic policies. Our immediate actions must be aimed at restoring the country's minimal productive capacity to the state that existed in our country just before the hurricane.

If we could quickly reconstruct this, if we could quickly stabilize agricultural production, if we could give seeds to all peasants today, tomorrow the 60,000 peasants in Regions 5 and 6 would be producing beans and corn; then the situation would not be so serious. However, we all know there are specific times to plant, and even if peasants could get the seeds now, it would take a few months to harvest those crops.

Additionally, there is damage to the social infrastructure. There is also damage to the transportation infrastructure—bridges and roads. Moreover, there has been damage that is not as important, but which significantly reduces our cotton and sugar exports. The sugarcane mill has been severely damaged. Meanwhile, we will have to get sugar elsewhere for the people; we will have to get it elsewhere.

Therefore, the economic tensions we were facing before the hurricane are qualitatively greater after the hurricane.

It is during difficult times when we must appeal, when we must appeal [Ortega repeats himself] to the consciences of all Nicaraguans.

Now that we have thousands of homeless and jobless Nicaraguans who have no food; now that we have the most important Nicaraguan food producers without houses and tools to work with, without clothing, belongings, and food; can anyone think of proposing—with the current situation—a policy to improve wages, to demand better prices and better treatment for cattle and coffee production—which are somehow surviving and operating—as if the country was experiencing normal circumstances? Could anyone think of [word indistinct] cotton production or sugar cane production? [Words indistinct] the country in that sense. The country is not fit for such proposals right now. People would be unrealistic if they now talked about economic demands. It would be unrealistic, regardless of which group makes the demands, because just as the demands could come from urban and rural workers, they could also come from coffee, sorghum, sesame seeds, rice, cotton, sugar cane, and [word indistinct] producers. At least those producers and those workers have jobs. It is true they are underpaid, but they have jobs.

There is some infrastructure that was not destroyed by the hurricane. Some people have the materials they need to continue working—amid great difficulty, of course.

Would it not be consistent with the current situation if, without a mandatory National Assembly decree or a decree proposed by the president, producers who obtain foreign exchange from their cotton, coffee, and meat production decided by themselves to create a fund to face this tragedy and reactivate peasant production? Would it not be consistent with the present situation to create a fund with part of the foreign exchange those producers receive? Would it not be logical that all Nicaraguan workers, who justly demand their precious 13th-month bonus, decide to give up part of that precious bonus and create a fund to revitalize peasant production? We must now concentrate all our cordobas—not dollars—on that production to make sure peasants can produce beans and corn, which are basic food for all Nicaraguans.

It would be fruitless if producers keep all their foreign exchange and if workers receive their precious 13th-month bonus in full [words indistinct] if we do not have enough resources to reactivate peasant production, to construct houses for the homeless, to give them food and medicine, and to provide them with tools. Isn't this the time to show fraternity, solidarity, and act like true Christians [words indistinct], and like people who respect human rights, especially those who keep advocating human rights? Isn't this the right time to express all those feelings, now that we have thousands of brothers in Bluefields, Corn Island, Rama, Wiwili, Mulucucu, the [name indistinct] area, and Las Salinas without houses, clothing, furniture, and utensils?

When we met with the residents of those areas, the comrades told us: We do not even have cooking utensils. If I bring them beans, they are going to tell me: But where are we going to cook the beans?

People who are producing, Nicaraguan brothers who are working, Nicaraguan brothers who belong to the various political forces, Nicaraguan brothers who practice various religions, Nicaraguan brothers who are suffering the effects of the hurricane, the current situation demands solidarity from all Nicaraguans, it demands a consistent attitude from all Nicaraguans.

This is not the time to take advantage of the tragic circumstances resulting from the hurricane to play antigovernment politics, because to play antigovernment politics is simply to play politics against all those who were directly affected and harmed by the hurricane; it is playing politics against the entire Nicaraguan society.

The antigovernment policy that the Yankee embassy will launch—which it is already implementing through its instruments here in our country—is clearly aimed at taking advantage of current circumstances to try to accomplish its objective of destroying the revolution.

However, although we know there are Nicaraguans who have been acting as traitors and turncoats, the Nicaraguan people are now telling them that this is an opportunity for them to vindicate themselves before the people, to have a constructive policy, to make constructive criticism. This is not a time to be closed to criticism. However, it must be constructive criticism, made with a national spirit that will enable us to move ahead. We will move ahead, with the firmness and dignity shown by our comrades—the peasants affected by the hurricane—when we visited them in various parts of the country. They have said: We are ready to continue working; we are ready to continue struggling for our homeland, for our country. Give us the tools to work and we will move the economy, we will move society! We are not thinking of moving the world. Our peasants and workers affected by the hurricane, our brothers of Bluefields, Corn Island, Rama, Wiwili, and Mulucucu do not need to move the world, because they find support within themselves, they find strength in themselves, in their morality. They only need a little domestic and international cooperation. They need a little solidarity, love, and fraternity to continue working and building a society of free men as Sandino dreamed. Free fatherland or death!

*** New Districts in Managua Urban Area Described**
32480026 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish
17 Oct 88 pp 1, 4

[Text] How Large Are Managua's Districts?

Districts are the new political-administrative division of the Managua urban area, replacing the 10 well-known zones in which the Sandinist Front, the government and the mass organizations operated.

There used to be 10 zones; now there are 6 districts, which also encompass the regions in south Managua known as Media Luna.

Needless to say, now that the districts have been set up, the well-known zones 11, 12, 13 and 14 also disappear, as we return today to the "vogue" of territories and municipalities.

For example, Villa Carlos Fonseca and San Rafael del Sur used to be Zone 14. Today they are two municipalities of Managua, and Regional Government III serves them as such.

District 1 is Ciudad Sandino, which consists of a series of neighborhoods, regions and work places, the Xiloa Tourist Center and Xavier Grotto. According to the most recent data, it has 51,454 inhabitants. Among the regions are Trinidad Norte and Central, Cuajachillo, and Los Brasiles.

District 2 comprises 40 neighborhoods, with 112,000 residents, located between the refinery, the Julio Buitrago neighborhood, the entire lake front up to the Penwalt plant and all of the communities along the Southern Highway westward as far as Las Piedracitas.

This district includes the Sandinist Television Network and the Western Cemetery, the largest in Managua.

Another 57 neighborhoods form District 3, which comprises many of the regions of Managua's Media Luna.

It includes Montoya, all of the neighborhoods east of the Southern Highway, the regions as far as San Isidro Libertador, San Judas, Camilo Ortega, the Cesar Augusto Sandino Convention Center, the Eastern Road and Altamira.

Statistics indicate that District 4 has 200,000 inhabitants and 53 neighborhoods. It is responsible for administering the old urban area of Managua, where the following are located: the Government Palace, the National Assembly, the Palace and Square of the Revolution, the Oriental Market, all of the communities along the lake front as far as Portezuelo, whence it "turns" towards Rubenia.

It includes Bello Horizonte, the Mexico Experimental Institute, Tiscapa Lagoon and the main military installations of the Sandinist People's Army.

District 5, which covers 82 square km, will be called upon to administer no fewer than 65 neighborhoods, plus the regions in southeastern Media Luna.

It includes the Soviet Union neighborhood, Catorce de Septiembre, Reparto Schick, Ariel Darce, Centroamerica, the Roberto Huembes Market, and the Esquipulas and Santo Domingo de las Sierritas de Managua regions.

District 6 begins at Portezuelo, "turns" towards Rubenia and runs to Sabanagrande; it includes 22 large factories and communities along the Northern Highway as far as Sandino Airport.

"What is this?" "It is the way that the government and the Managua mayor's office run things politically and administratively," replies Martha Moreno, the head of District 3, who is also known as "little mayor."

The six district chiefs are appointed and represent the Managua mayor's office. Their objectives are to decentralize the functions of the capital city region and to coordinate the state and mass forces "to address and solve community problems."

Examples: District 3 has already ordered the Roger Deshon Arguello Community Center cleaned up and straightened out. Moreover, a group of young people will ask the revolutionary government to let them make play areas out of the facilities that no one is using at present.

A committee was set up to raise funds and to pave 1,200 meters of streets near the Pan American School. All of this is located in the San Judas neighborhood.

Organized Activities

Other committees of local residents and officials from the mayor's office are currently laying sewage pipes at several spots in the Camilo Ortega neighborhood.

Another group was formed to combine the resources of the mayor's office and the community to build a wall to protect the homes that the river is threatening in San Judas.

Many locals are also joining forces to repair the footbridge over to the Martin Luther King settlement.

"The issue here is organizing and coordinating forces. In the case of the paving work, the mayor's office provides the stones, the heavy equipment and the technicians, and the community furnishes the manpower," remarked Marta Moreno.

She went on to say: "This is just starting. People don't even know what the districts are. The news media have to help out more in this regard."

Panama

Solis Palma Delivers Journalists Day Speech

PA1511124288 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1645 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Speech by Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency, on the occasion of Journalists Day; at Journalists' Hall in Panama City on 13 November—recorded]

[Text] My assistants at the Presidency tell me I express myself better speaking spontaneously than when reading speeches written for me. [applause] But perhaps they say this more out of a desire to avoid writing my speeches than for any truths I may express. It has come to the point where I do not know whether I will have to improvise until I am already seated at an event. But let us believe them and excuse them their desire to avoid work. [applause]

I will now present the certificates and medals honoring former presidents and founders of the Journalists Union of Panama. We always tend to think times were better in the past, that yesterday's professors, lawyers, and doctors were better. We always view the past as better than the present. But this is a false premise because otherwise the world could not have progressed. We would have gone backward. We have moved forward because there is always something better in the present than in the past. One thing is true, however: Man develops with the passage of time. He grows gradually and we can see him in a better light when we consider him dispassionately, regardless of time, and in light of his development.

When I see all of these personal friends—this is a great honor—the vice president, the secretary general, and the founders, I can say all of them have lived and acted in accordance with our nation's principles and are great men, who deserve the honor we bestow today. We see them as great because they are great. They have not succumbed to time, but outgrown it, and I am proud of their permanent friendship.

Gaspar Octavio Hernandez was a self-taught man, nationalist, poet, and reporter. I would say he was a great humanist. His grandson has said Hernandez deserves our respect and recognition. Panama owes him much. There is nothing more appropriate or just than to honor our country's great men with this medal that, like those of Manuel Jose Hurtado, Belisario Porras, Manuel Amador Guerrero, and many others, must be awarded to those Panamanians who have lived and grown with time.

The Journalists Union president has said we are passing through a critical, worrisome time. To expand on that would be redundant. A dialogue for a national reconciliation was proposed, but, apparently, it was ignored. But I do not think the proposal was really ignored or disregarded. We must be patient enough to wait for the Panamanian people's boundless passion, which has been overflowing for more than a year, to seek its own level so, after mature reflection and aware of our national identity, we can sit down and agree to accomplish what the country requires and demands, as Panama has done in the past.

During this time of high feelings we have not been able to agree, or the time has not been right, to abandon subjective and biased opinions and sit down and seek the solution the homeland demands from all Panamanians regardless of economic, social, or political status. This is why what our friend Castellanos presented 1 year ago would prove much more timely now. We are getting to the point where we can seek a consensus among Panamanians, although some resentment and much hatred remains. Reality, however, is gradually prevailing. When individuals or groups were harmed, the Panamanian nation was harmed also.

This is what we must analyze and ponder deeply. We must realize we cannot seek the destruction of some at the cost of destroying the Panamanian nation. I do not think, however, the country's moral crisis can be attributed to the economic crisis, nor do I think the social crisis can be attributed to the current economic situation. Even part the economic crisis cannot be attributed to the political situation facing us since June 1987. For the past several years the indicators have shown a country heading into economic danger, a national economy in decline, and that corrections had to be made. In addition, it is not true the banking center's crisis started in June 1987. There is clear evidence the United States had been attempting, for at least 5 years, to displace Panama as a banking center, by trying to transfer

Panama's banking business to Miami. In 1987, they had a great opportunity of linking the political and the financial spheres to ruin Panama's banking center.

The crisis, however, did not begin in 1987— the Panamanian economy was being damaged well before 1987. Our social problems are not exclusively Panamanian, they are universal problems and in the case of Panama—which cannot escape the universal decline—they appeared a long time ago.

We are currently feeling the effects of those social problems, and we can now attribute them to a specific cause. The underlying causes of the crisis, however, were always there but they became clearer and stronger because of the political crisis.

Some people are trying to make Panamanians believe all the country's problems would be solved if there were a change of government, because, they say, large amounts of money would enter the country. Why then, has Honduras, which supports the U.S. Government and U.S. capital, not solved its problems? Why does the Honduran crisis and its social, political, and economic problems continue? Why has money not solved those problems? Or is Panama an exception? Why has money not solved problems in the Philippines? Or in Costa Rica? Or the many problems that exist throughout the world, which the United States tries to overcome with the power of the dollar.

Panama, however, must give up its nationality in the name of a future the United States has never provided to any other country in the world. [applause]

Gentlemen, the future of nations is found only in their own strength, work, in their determination to continue forward, and in their unyielding desire to continue being free, sovereign, and independent nations.

We are friends of all peoples, but we are not equal to all other nations. We are not even equal to our neighbors, Costa Rica and Colombia. We have many things in common, but we also have many differences, and those differences make a nation. If they did not exist there would be no reason for borders. Borders are not created on a whim but are the result of clear and obvious differences. I am not talking about economic or social differences, but ethnic and cultural differences, of which there are many among countries and we must keep them.

We all make mistakes every day. We adopt strong attitudes, because after all we are human beings, not robots, and we feel the aggression. Often we respond irrationally. That is why we welcome sincere and honest criticism, because it allows us to reach a fair balance and to react appropriately, although I admit it is not easy to do so at present.

I sympathize with those who have to carry out difficult tasks at the present time. I do not feel pity, though. I recognize their work and feel close to them. I feel sorry for the hard work that journalists have to do now.

Our friend Castellano told us what the role of the media should be. The media must play an objective, dispassionate, patriotic, and nationalistic role. At the same time, it must also play an honest, human, and democratic role. Journalists must maintain that role themselves. How can they do that? They can do it with feelings.

Currently, the media is not fulfilling that role. The media owners are not fulfilling that role and are imposing their own specific interests on their journalists. The journalists have no choice but to report the news in accordance with the interests of the media owners. [applause] Journalists must protect the role of the media. The only thing journalists can do to ease their conscience is to convince themselves they agree with their media owners. Journalists' opinions do not matter. The media owners change them and nothing can stop that except laws forcing the media to be much more respectful of the role of journalists. We do not only mean employer-employee relations. The law we would pass should touch deeper problems. That law should protect journalists who are constantly having their views distorted.

When we talk about human rights, we must realize human rights of journalists, whose reports are distorted, are being violated, and those are basic rights. People, however, do not understand human rights in that manner.

Today, journalism is a question of who has more power to keep his means of communication, because Panamanian society lives that way in this violent ocean of passions. That media situation is only logical in Panama, because we live in a capitalist country where the one who has the capital controls the media. In that game, to be with the government is to have surrendered to the Panama Defense Forces or perhaps to the civilian government, and to go along with the interests of the media owners is to be described by us as traitors to the homeland and turncoats. The journalist is wrong whichever side he is on; he has no choices. In view of that situation, journalists sometimes resort to the story of objectivity.

What is objectivity? I can talk about a passionate or a dispassionate commentary, but objectivity means something different to me than it does to others. Objectivity in that case depends on which side one is. Objectivity is a way to place oneself on one side or the other without resorting to the sin of having surrendered to one group. That is objectivity.

We could say many things about that topic but not on a day like today, when we commemorate the day of the journalist, the day of the reporter. I think we should talk about the significance of this day and wait for a better

time to talk about freedom of expression, the closed media, the media that wants to open, and of the democratic and patriotic role of the media, which must advocate human rights.

After those brief statements, let us discuss...[changes thought] without forgetting the need to have my participation and that of the government's in an ample and deep dialogue to discuss all the aforementioned issues, because they must be discussed. Those topics should perhaps open the way for a national dialogue. Why not begin by discussing journalists' rights, freedom of expression, and the right of the media to find a common path for all Panamanians? That could be the first step that will take us to find other paths leading to the prosperity of the Republic. [applause]

I call for that debate, and the government must accept it. Those who avoid it will lose by forfeit. [crowd laughs] [applause]

I insist that today I want to talk about your work, your sacrifice, about what you are doing for Panama, and about what you can do to benefit our country.

Disinformation has become one of the pillars of the low-intensity war. Some think it is a war of very small consequence. That is wrong. The low-intensity war is a new form of modern war. Once the large- and medium-range weapons are eliminated, the world is left with conventional weapons and a new strategy in super powers' attacks and in the control those super powers want to have over weaker countries. Disinformation is part of the low-intensity war, because with the progress made by science and technology, communication is no longer a local issue; it has other dimensions. Who can say we are preventing Panamanians from obtaining information if we close a television station? That was the case years ago. Today, with parabolic dishes, with Channel 8 [U.S. Southern Command Network] nearby, and all communications we can receive from the world, a local blockade of news is impossible, because communication is universal these days. We can receive news from all radio stations in the world. We can get newspapers from all over the world, and because we cannot apply censorship on the media abroad...[changes thought] There actually is no local censorship because there is international communication. International communication, however, is used to disseminate each country's image. You work in the difficult world of communication, and we demand you respond to Panama, which is being severely attacked.

I appreciate and deeply recognize your work, because you are caught between the criticism of both sides in our country, and you are criticized no matter whose side you are on. [applause]

Let the day of the journalist be a time of meditation and deep understanding of the work you perform. Let us create an ample fraternal feeling starting today—from the Presidency Public Relations Office and perhaps from the ministries and autonomous institutions—to begin looking at journalists from another perspective. Let us learn not to be so afraid of criticism and to respond adequately when we disagree with that criticism. We must all be brothers in the struggle to defend Panama's life and welfare, which belong to all of us regardless of the position each of us has taken at this difficult time.

Thank you very much.

Assembly President Urges Davis 'Withdrawl'

PA1611032888 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2256 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] Panama City, 15 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—Celso Carrizo, president of the Panamanian Legislative Assembly, today asked for the withdrawal of U.S. Ambassador to Panama Arthur Davis as a signal that U.S. President-elect George Bush wants to improve diplomatic relations between the two countries.

"We hope the new U.S. Administration will make changes in the U.S. policy toward Panama, and the first thing it should do is withdraw its ambassador," Carrizo told ACAN-EFE.

Relations between Panama and the United States have been at their lowest level in several decades, with Washington continuing to recognize Eric Arturo Delvalle as the president of this country, although he was ousted by the Legislative Assembly in the early hours of 26 February after he had unsuccessfully attempted to oust General Manuel Antonio Noriega from his post as commander of the Panama Defense Forces.

The current Ronald Reagan administration has also continued to level harsh economic and trade sanctions against Panama as part of its efforts to oust Noriega.

Carrizo feels the "errors" committed by Ambassador Davis have "eroded" his image in this country.

Davis has been accused by government sectors of "conspiring" with the opposition to oust Noriega.

FDP Reports Military Promotions,Changes

PA1511222488 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2101 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Excerpts] Panama City, 15 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—The Panama Defense Forces [FDP] General Staff today approved important changes in the military command structure, prominent among which was the appointment of Lieutenant Colonel Aquilino Sieiro as the new chief of the Joint Committee (with the United States) of the Panama Canal Defense and Security Commission.

In addition, General Manuel Antonio Noriega, FDP commander in chief, and the General Staff appointed Lieutenant Colonel Gerardo Garcia as the new chief of police forces.

This information was made available to ACAN-EFE by an authorized FDP source, who also reported the promotion to colonel of Lieutenant Colonels Guillermo Wong, who remains in charge of Military Intelligence (G-2), and Roberto Armijo, the new commander of Fort Jose Domingo Espinar in Colon. [passage omitted]

Major Carlos Arosemena King, executive officer of G-1 (personnel), was promoted to lieutenant colonel and posted as military attache to the Panamanian Embassy in Argentina.

Finally, Major Arnulfo Castrejon, commander of the 10th Military Zone (Chorrera, a district of Panama Province located 35 km west of the capital), has been promoted to lieutenant colonel and will be the new chief of the War Materiel Service.

Argentina

Menem Questions Caputo's Position on Falklands

PY1411232088 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 14 Nov 88

[By Fernando Nunez from Ezeiza International Airport]

[Text] Justicialist Party [PJ] presidential hopeful Carlos Saul Menem arrived back in Argentina this morning at Ezeiza International Airport, from where we are now reporting. He has just completed a tour through France, the FRG, Spain, and Italy.

Menem was questioned by journalists concerning reports in which he played a key role in the past few days. One of these reports had to do with alleged contradictions by the PJ presidential hopeful concerning the Malvinas Islands.

Menem said that it is not he but Foreign Minister Dante Caputo who is involved in contradictions.

[Begin Menem recording] You should ask Foreign Minister Dante Caputo, who unfortunately holds various contradictory positions on this issue.

When I said it was necessary to negotiate—taking into account, however, the sovereignty of the Malvinas Islands, basically in keeping with UN Resolution No 20/65 of 1965—Caputo made a number remarks that are completely at odds with what I said.

Now I read in today's press headlines—not only in our papers but in some British papers as well—that for a long time now the (?bad) Foreign Minister Caputo has been holding secret talks with the British Government on this matter, virtually ignoring the sovereignty issue.

Concerning this matter, I have not [word indistinct] the sovereignty issue. We do not agree on this. [end recording]

It is worth making clear here that the report of a coming meeting between Foreign Minister Caputo and the UK ambassador to the United Nations, Crispin Tickell, actually came from the Foreign Office [preceding two words in English], that is, from the British Foreign Ministry, and no one knows whether this report might not be part of the UK Foreign Ministry's strategy for dealing with Argentina. We repeat that these reports came from the United Kingdom.

Upon arriving in Argentina, Carlos Menem not only focused on the ongoing controversy with the foreign minister, but also discussed what happened during his European tour.

[Begin Menem recording] To a great extent, we have changed a biased image of our country, which is not the result of European press reports but of what some media or politicians—certainly not Justicialists—have disseminated abroad.

We have also discussed the possibility of European investments in Argentina. There is great enthusiasm as long as Argentina regains the status of a trustworthy country. [end recording]

When he was asked whether he could travel to the United States, Menem said that he would only do so in May 1989, because he wants to travel as president and not as a presidential hopeful.

British Properties 'Embargo'

PY1611015088 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2025 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 15 Nov (NA)—Peronist presidential candidate Carlos Menem today warned UCR members that "lies are worthless, and you will end up getting caught in your own trap." Menem also explained that if he is elected president, he will propose "to embargo, not expropriate, the 300,000 hectares of land the British Crown owns in our Patagonia." [passage omitted]

Menem repeatedly denounced UCR contradictions and pointed out: "I have never said I would expropriate British properties. I simply said I would embargo these properties until the conflict over the sovereignty of the Malvinas Islands is solved."

He said: "The British Crown owns 300,000 hectares in the Patagonian region." He said he would expropriate this property, not the property of British citizens. [passage omitted]

Strike Situation, Prospects Summarized

PY1511160688 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1425 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 15 Nov (EFE)—The employees of the courts of Buenos Aires and in six Argentine provinces began a 24-hour strike today to demand salary increases. This strike is just one more protest against the government's economic policies.

Today the confederation of Education Workers of the Argentine Republic (CTERA) called for grammar school teachers of four provinces of the Argentine northwest and Buenos Aires to begin a 48-hour strike.

The employees of the Animal Health Department who check the animals to be slaughtered for consumption have been on strike for 2 days, thus preventing the sale of meat.

Meanwhile about 12 million letters have not been delivered because the postal service workers of Buenos Aires and its surrounding area have been on strike for 26 days, demanding salary increases.

The postal workers disobeyed an agreement reached by the government with the national confederations and continue wildcat strikes.

Labor Minister Ideler Tonelli warned that "the tolerable limits of the strike have already been reached" and offered his mediation in the conflict.

The government offered salary readjustments for the last 3 months of this year and to pay in installments what it owes in back pay.

Tonelli called on the strikers to lift the strike while the offer is being negotiated. The strikers decided to study the offer during a meeting this afternoon.

The strike by the National Telecommunications Enterprise, ENTEL, has left the country without means of communications with other countries because of cuts in communications that affected telex and news agencies.

ENTEL workers said that they will lift the strike probably this afternoon after the company pays some of the back pay that has been owed to them since 1983.

The wave of strikes by state employees are aimed at breaking up the guidelines of the Primavera economic plan implemented last August by the government of President Raul Alfonsin to reduce inflation.

Last week the government lifted the strikes by railroad workers and bus drivers when it granted them salary increases just above the percentages established by the new economic adjustment plan.

Arsenal Discovery Linked to Arms Trafficking

PY1511114788 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 0200 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Excerpts] Federal Judge of San Isidro Alberto Piotti today conducted three more raids in Victoria, Buenos Aires Province, on the properties of Ricardo Marchesse, who is at large. Arms, ammunition, explosives, vehicles, and 15,000 kg of copper and lead, which was being sold at 60 australes per kilogram, were found. [passage omitted]

Piotti referred to the 5,000 kg of explosives, 340 105-mm cannon shells, and 19,000 rounds of ammunition already found. He said that the man responsible for this arsenal is probably linked to arms trafficking.

Piotti added that the arms were probably stolen from the Army and that the Army is conducting an inventory in all arsenals. [passage omitted]

Seven Arrested in Mendoza; Weapons Seized

PY1511174988 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Excerpt] According to a TELAM report, Rodolfo Gonzalez, Mendoza Provincial government under secretary, today confirmed the arrest of seven people, among them some Chilean citizens, in possession of various types of weapons. The arrests were made during an operation carried out on 13 November in Bermejo District, Guaymallen Department.

Gonzalez told the media that he could not give any further details on the quantity of weapons, the arrested persons, nor the specific site where the operation was carried out. He added that he could not say whether the arrested people were resident exiles or recently arrived Chileans. [passage omitted]

Supreme Court Upholds Drug Trafficking Sentence

PY1511000688 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 14 Nov 88

[By Marcelo Lando]

[Text] Today the Argentine Supreme Court of Justice upheld a 3-year prison term for two crewmen of the ship "Burma 1," which flies the Panamanian flag. A total of 8.5 kg of cocaine was discovered in their cabin during a routine inspection.

The sentences were handed down on Albertina Mabel Dalmao Montiel and Hector Raul Furtado Godoy, who claimed that the drugs were discovered under a bed in their cabin during an illegal raid, conducted without the appropriate court authorization.

The Supreme Court of Justice upheld the right of the Argentine Naval Prefecture and the National Customs Directorate to raid ship and sites in the port area for purposes of security and hygiene.

The Supreme Court also said that officials of the Argentine Naval Prefecture and the National Customs Directorate legally entered the site where the drugs were discovered, because the ship's captain, who is the person charged with managing and governing the ship, gave a valid consent.

The Argentine Supreme Court of Justice, therefore, rejected a special petition for protection filed by one of the defendants and upheld the sentence handed down by the criminal court for drug trafficking and illegal possession of about 9 kg of cocaine hydrochloride which was discovered during a routine inspection at the port of Buenos Aires, where the ship was anchored.

* Loopholes May Allow Escape From Debt Contracts

33480020C Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 13 Oct 88 p 4

[Eduardo R. Conesa commentary]

[Excerpts] Given the government's current strategy for the repayment of our foreign debt (described in my article in LA PRENSA as involving paying part of the interest and taking out more loans to pay the rest, while the foreign debt continues to grow and the country remains in the doldrums, struggling to navigate between

hyperinflation and recession), it is possible that the opposition and pockets within the ruling party itself may begin to draft legal arguments to try to make the government rid the country of its foreign debt. It is easy to imagine the arguments. [passage omitted]

The repayment of the principal and interest on the public debt requires that the government of the indebted country obtain funds. And since in the final analysis the funds must be obtained through taxation, and taxes must be approved by the parliament, the power to take out loans must also necessarily lie with the parliament of that country.

It may be recalled that this is set forth in the Argentine Constitution of 1853, in Articles 4 and 67, paragraphs 3 and 6. Thus, Article 4 states: "The Federal Government provides for the nation's expenditures with funds from the National Treasury, derived from duties levied on imports and exports...and from the loans and credit transactions that the Congress itself shall decree for the urgent needs of the nation or for undertakings in the national interest." Article 67 says: "It shall be the duty of Congress...(3) To obtain monetary loans on the credit of the nation...(6) To arrange for the payment of the internal and external debt of the nation."

Thus, the tribunes of democracy will contend that only the Congress, made up of the representatives of the people, can approve the external or internal debt. In this connection, President Alfonsin's message to Congress of 1 May 1988 will be emphasized:

"The democracy inherited the overwhelming burden of a debt that is so large that it compromises the future of Argentines and has also represented a severe drain on our resources. Other sister nations face an indebtedness problem that is similar to our own in origin and magnitude, but they at least have tangible productive investments as a counterweight to make available more goods and services. Argentina's foreign debt may be one of the most tragic episodes in contemporary economic history because it has been a sterile process aimed at financing a distorted consumption structure, a severe fiscal imbalance, and a massive flight of capital. This regrettable legacy that the democratic government has inherited falls directly on the shoulders of the nation because in the final stages of the previous military government most of the debt was transferred to the public sector. This exacerbated the budget deficit, generated a greater transfer of funds abroad at the expense of productive investment, and accentuated the inflation process, through the measures that were required to neutralize the imbalance in the public accounts produced by the debt itself."

In fact, opposition jurists will argue, democracies do not inherit debts; democracies can only accept the debt through legislation passed by Congress because the power to contract loans, like its Siamese twin, the power to levy taxes, belongs exclusively to the representatives of the people, that is, parliament. This debt, dubiously accepted by the democracy, was contracted under Article 5 of the Statute for the Process of National Reorganization, which read:

"The legislative powers that the National Constitution vests in Congress, including those that are exclusive to each of the chambers, shall be exercised by the president of the nation...."

Was the foreign debt explicitly accepted by the Argentine Congress? The opposition jurists will try to demonstrate that it was not. It must be assumed that if President Alfonsin agreed to pay the debts of the "process" [military regime] with the monies of the people, the debt should have been approved by Congress. If not, the opposition jurists will have some arguments to wield against Dr Alfonsin himself. It will be said that his government agreed to return huge amounts of property expropriated by the "process" to individuals who were linked to the terrorist extortion that wracked the country. He condemned the commanders in chief of our Armed Forces to life in prison, but agreed to have the Argentine people carry on their shoulders the debts of the "process." This is a problem of consistency, or rather inconsistency, the opposition jurists will say. If the democracy pays the debts of the "process," it must be because parliament agrees to do so, not because it "inherits" them. It will be argued that this is fundamental in any democracy. It will also be said that it does not make sense for the democracy to cry over the foreign debt; it should either declare it legally void or pay it, but not cry over it. The opposition will argue that crying over the foreign debt of the military juntas after sending their members to prison for life is a formidable inconsistency.

It will be said that it is unconstitutional for parliament to accept the debt, which was contracted with variable interests rates that depend on the U.S. budget deficit. Since the Argentine foreign debt was $54 billion in 1987, for every 1-percent increase in the international interest rate, $540 million is wrested from the Argentine people and sent to the coffers of bankers in New York and London. The Argentine democracy cannot countenance any of this. Since the international interest rate depends on the U.S. budget deficit, at a ratio of nearly 1 to 1, for every 1 percent that the U.S. Congress votes to add to the budget deficit (in relation to that country's GDP), the real interest rate goes up a point, and the Argentine people, without any representation in the Congress of the United States, must pay at least $540 million more to their creditors. I say at least, because we have not yet added to those millions of dollars the depressive effect the U.S. budget deficit has on the prices of Argentina's exports, and that is another burden our citizens must bear.

An argument will also be put forth on the basis of the concept of "rebus sic stantibus," which is considered implicit in all contracts, even those in international law. This phrase means that contracts must be honored as long as there is no substantial change in the circumstances that prevailed when the contract was drawn up.

When the change in circumstances is reasonably unforeseeable and has increased the obligations of the debtor to such an extent that the debtor could only meet them by risking ruin or making excessive sacrifices, the law allows for the renegotiation of the contract. In this case, the contracts were originally signed when the LIBOR [London Interbank Offered Rate] was 0 percent, in real terms. As a result of the massive and continuous budget deficits in the United States, which were totally unforeseeable and are a phenomenon that has not been seen in the postwar period, the LIBOR interest rates soared to a real 8 percent for 6 years in a row, as shown in Table 3 [table not included]. Thus, the contracts became excessively onerous for all developing countries from 1981 onward. Under these circumstances, law and justice are on our side, the opposition jurists will argue with considerable justification, and they will request that the debt contracts be renegotiated.

It will be said that it is unconstitutional and a threat to national sovereignty for the loan contracts to stipulate that the courts of the state of New York have jurisdiction, because the Argentine Constitution of 1853 establishes in Article 100 the unwaivable jurisdiction of the Argentine Supreme Court of Justice and the federal courts in the cases to which the nation is a party.

It will be said that according to Article 4 of the Constitution of 1853, the public debt can only be contracted "for urgent needs of the nation" or for "undertakings of national interest," not to finance the flight of private capital, as occurred in 1981 and 1982, or for ill-conceived macroeconomic balances, as occurred between 1983 and 1988.

In conclusion, it is not the purpose of this article to predict all the legal arguments that the opposition attorneys will wield, just to give a brief idea of their general tenor. Besides, the arguments are obvious, and it should be recognized that they may carry considerable weight in the public opinion of our country and even that of the world.

The deficiency of this legalistic, litigious argument lies in the fact that the Argentine people are interested in economic development and not legal battles (in an upcoming article we will demonstrate that it is possible to pay and grow at the same time). Thus, this legal posture is attractive only to those who seek confrontation with the Western powers. The best opportunity for this litigious stance was wasted early in President Alfonsin's term. That was the most propitious moment for the Argentine Congress to formally reject the debt contracts in the name of democracy, and to leave them without a legal foundation, thus forcing advantageous negotiations with the creditor banks. But the government hastily opened an internal front when it decided to prosecute our Armed Forces, and could not then afford to open a second front, this one external, with the foreign creditor banks. The upshot was that the Argentine people paid for the broken dishes and ended up with a larger foreign debt, this one contracted with the tacit consent of Congress, and without the economic development that is what we're really after.

* Urgent Steps Demanded Against Overfishing

33480020D Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 8 Oct 88 p 5

[Text] Andres Fescina, president of the Federal Party, denounced the "indiscriminate and open depredation of fishing resources in our country's south, where the situation is completely beyond the control of Argentine authorities." He demanded that "the necessary measures be adopted to put a stop to this veritable emptying of the fishing grounds, which threatens to deprive our country and the world of one of its natural resources and most important reserves."

Fescina contended that "the entire South Atlantic, especially the 200-mile exclusive economic zone, is suffering from senseless overfishing." He went on to assert that this "is a consequence of three factors: the multiple and daily illegal incursions of vessels from different nations into Argentine territorial waters; the abuse of quantitative clauses by countries that have fishing agreements with Argentina; and the licenses that the British have granted."

Increase

The head of the Federal Party indicated that "the catch in the South Atlantic has increased by 700,000 tons in the last few months, and it has included females in the spawning period and immature fish (relying on partial figures on calculations of illegal activity, which yields no benefit to Argentina). In addition, the factory ships that operate in the area have increased in number from 100 to more than 600." Fescina emphasized "the high technology of those factory ships, especially the ones operated by the Soviets and the Japanese. They are able to obtain the highest yields from their processing, and have an astounding storage capacity."

Fescina, who made these statements during a meeting with party leaders and chambers of production, said that "all of this emerges from a study that is being conducted by the party in conjunction with various commissions that are working in the area, with regard to the economic exploitation and industrialization of the maritime resources of the South Atlantic." He asserted that "the Federal Party, through its parliamentary representation, is quickly drafting bills to be debated in the chambers on this subject." Nevertheless, he indicated that "the matter is so urgent that the authorities and the citizenry should be alerted" so that "the minimum emergency measures can be implemented."

Statistics on Grain Exports to USSR Reported

PY1511174688 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] According to a report issued by the National Grains Board, during the 1 January-31 October 1988 period Argentina exported approximately 3.1 million tons of grains, grain by-products, and oils to the Soviet Union.

Chile

Merino Views Possible Constitutional Reform

PY1611010588 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] Admiral Jose Toribio Merino, Navy commander in chief and Government Junta member, has said that the Constitution can be amended to a certain extent, including the election of senators.

Adm Merino did not rule out the possibility that the government could hold talks with some opposition parties to study the amendment of some articles.

Merino pointed out, however, that the opposition parties' issues must be acceptable to the government.

Adm Merino made these remarks today after he chaired a regular Government Junta meeting at the Diego Portales Building.

Ballerino Takes Over Presidency Minister Slot

PY1611010888 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Summary] General Jorge Ballerino was installed today as minister secretary general of the Presidency, replacing General Sergio Valenzuela, who has retired.

General Leiva Appointed New Intelligence Chief

PY1511235988 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] In a ceremony to be held at the Military School tomorrow, Brigadier General Humberto Leiva Gutierrez will be sworn in as the new director of the National Intelligence Center.

General Leiva will replace Major General Hugo Salas Wenze, who was appointed chief of Military Institutions.

Major General Jaime Gonzalez Vergara, commander of the 2d Army Division, will preside over the installation ceremony.

Briones Installed as Government TV Director

PY1611024288 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Summary] Alejandro Briones was installed as director of Television Nacional de Chile today, replacing Brigadier Carlos Krumm.

Nunez Socialists Not To Nominate Candidate

PY1611012888 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] The Nunez-led faction of the Socialist Party will not nominate Ricardo Lagos, leader of the Party for Democracy, as its presidential candidate.

Ricardo Nunez, general secretary of the Socialist Party, has announced that the Central Committee and regional delegates of his party have proposed a national convention to approve a program for a future opposition government and to nominate a presidential candidate.

The plenum of the Nunez-led Socialist faction clearly supported the reunification of all Socialist factions and stated its position on upcoming political events.

[Begin Nunez recording] As is known, there is one candidate. Our friend Ricardo Lagos has the legitimate right to try to become the leader of the Chilean nation, but we think that it is paramount today to establish clear procedures that would allow all Chileans to participate in this process, to nominate a single candidate, to draw up a joint program, and to reach an electoral pact among all opposition forces. In order to promote these goals we are not going to nominate any candidate. [end recording]

Nunez added that the plenum of his party agreed to promote basic reforms in the 1980 Constitution.

FPMR Releases Communique to Chilean People

PY1011195888 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] In what would appear to effectively refute the opposition's convoluted arguments, the official spokesmen of the terrorist Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front [FPMR] have released a communique addressed to the people of Chile that contains three points.

Point No 1 states: Comrades Raul Pelegri Friedman and (Cecilia Manghi Camino), under the names of Commander Rodrigo and Commander Tamara, respectively, founded the FPMR.

They were part of the Jose Joaquin Valenzuela Levy guerrilla column, commanded by Commander Pedro, which took over the village of Los Quenes.

The communique, which is addressed to the people of Chile, is signed by official FPMR Spokesmen (Vaily Carrillo), (Kary Nightel), and Victor Diaz Caro, who have been convicted in the case of the attack against President Pinochet.

According to the communique, Commander Pedro was the top leader of the attack against Los Quenes and the person who was presumably responsible for smuggling the weapons in June, July, and August 1986 at Carrizal Bajo.

FPMR Plants 'Vietnam-Type' Bombs in Escape

PY1011190988 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] Police sources have reported that personnel of the Special Operations Group (GOPE) of Carabineros have discovered at least 25 Vietnam-type mines [minas del tipo Vietnamita] in the Cabildo area. The large area was reportedly mined by members of the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front [FPMR]. The minefield was discovered this morning.

It was reported that an FPMR group mined the field during their escape following an attack on the town of La Mora, about 15 minutes from Cabildo.

It has been unofficially reported that GOPE personnel, who are now working on the site, have found at least 25 Vietnam-type bombs which were tied to each other with extremely thin nylon cords that would be detonated by anyone passing through the area.

The FPMR claimed in a communique that it mined the field in Cabildo to prevent police forces from chasing its members who had participated in the occupation of the town of La Mora.

The military prosecutor on duty will probably visit the scene in a few hours.

'Arsenal' Found in Puerto Montt, 3 Arrested

PY1211204288 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Text] Several people have been arrested in connection with the discovery of an arsenal in Puerto Montt. As expected, and according to investigations that are being conducted to clarify the case of the arsenal found in the (Pichipeyuco) neighborhood of Puerto Montt, two individuals have been arrested and are being held incommunicado at the (Chin Chin) prison.

Military Prosecutor Roberto Enriquez has confirmed that these individuals are those arrested. So far, three individuals involved in this case have been arrested.

Enriquez also said that a physician allegedly linked to the discovery of weapons in the (Pichipeyuco) sector has been arrested.

Soviet Ship Seeks Assistance in Antofagasta

PY1211230788 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Text] A Soviet vessel has docked in the port of Antofagasta and two crewmembers, a man and a woman, have been given urgent medical assistance.

The state of health of the two crewmembers of the Russian vessel is said to be serious. They underwent emergency surgery last night here at the Antofagasta Clinic. The two were hurt in an accident on the Soviet fishing vessel "(Motoskiy Stalis)" that was operating off the 200-mile territorial limit from the second region coast. Also operating in the area are 80 Soviet, Cuban, and Polish fishing ships. The two Soviets, a man and a woman, were taken to the Antofagasta Clinic at 2100 last night and underwent emergency surgery at about 2300. The woman, identified as (Jana Soklokova), 39, was suffering a uterine infection, and her condition is listed as serious. The Soviet crewman, identified as (Sergey Sergey Agyanov), 27, had several broken bones due to a 3-meter fall while working on the vessel. His shoulder was operated on last night and he will again undergo surgery this afternoon.

The Navy has issued a communique regarding these incidents, saying that at 2024 last night a message requesting medical assistance was received from the Soviet fishing vessel. The vessel was at that time operating off the exclusive economic zone of 200 miles at the latitude of Antofagasta. For humanitarian reasons Navy authorities granted the Soviet vessel permission to dock in the Antofagasta port, escorted by a Navy ship. Once the two people who required medical attention were taken off the ship, the Soviets left the port for territorial waters, escorted by the same Navy ship. The communique concludes by saying that the two Soviet crewmembers will be taken to Lima, Peru, via Santiago, under international police control. This communique is signed by Navy Captain Gabriel Munita Cristi, maritime governor of Antofagasta.

Colombia

Military-Drug Trafficking Link Alleged

PA1511181788 (Clandestine) Radio Patria Libre in Spanish to Colombia 0030 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] On Radio Patria Libre we are presenting proof about those responsible for the genocide in Segovia Municipality, northeastern Antioquia Department. This genocide occurred on 11 November. The Segovia police and the Bombona Battalion of the 14th Brigade, headquartered in Puerto Berrio and commanded by (Elio Rojas Cubillo), are directly responsible for this action and for setting up a propaganda show simultaneous with the action.

The creation of the narcomilitary republic of the Middle Magdalena region began in 1980 with the establishment of the Middle Magdalena Operations Command, led by General Faruk Yanine Diaz when he was just an Army

captain. The operations command annihilated the peasant population in the San Bartolo River area. It carried out the [name indistinct] peasant massacre in 1981 and totally removed the population. Faruk Yanine Diaz was then promoted to lieutenant colonel. As the resident population was annihilated and displaced so the region could be repopulated, the government created the 14th Brigade, headquartered in Puerto Berrio. Faruk Yanine was promoted to major [as heard] and given command of the 14th Brigade.

Dozens of bodies appeared floating on the Magdalena River. [words indistinct] while drug traffickers and military men divided the booty.

To form the narcomilitary republic of the Middle Magdalena region, the 14th Brigade began coordinating its work with the 4th Brigade's Bombona Battalion, the [name indistinct] Battalion, the Amazonas Battalion, and the Rafael Reyes Battalion. To carry out their annihilation work, each battalion formed gangs of hired assassins in partnership with the drug traffickers. One of the narcomilitary gangs took the name of [name indistinct] Colonel Rogelio Correa, who headed special groups of hired assassins. [Words indistinct] narcomilitary gangs of the MAS [Death to Kidnappers], the Smudged Ones, the Crickets, and Death to the Revolutionaries From the Northeast, MRN, which was created by Senator Cesar Perez Garcia, former president of the Colombian Senate.

The goal of the narcomilitary gangs of the Middle Magdalena region is to extend the narcomilitary republic's territory. To do this, they commit the most terrible massacres, murders, and genocides. These narcomilitary gangs carried out the peasant massacres in [name indistinct], Santander Department, in 1981 and in (El Lagarto), Antioquia Department, which was ordered by drug trafficker Fidel Castano in 1983. At the beginning of 1988, 18 miners were hacked up by the MNR, created by Senator Cesar Perez Garcia.

The extermination operation against labor leaders in the narcomilitary republic has left the following murder toll: 14 workers of the cement industry, at least 6 oil workers of the Workers Trade Union, and several workers of the [name indistinct] lumber project. The dreaded members of the narcomilitary republic have murdered two priests of the Middle Magdalena region, including Bernardo Lopez in 1987. The hired assassin who killed him (?confessed) that Puerto Boyaca Mayor Luis Rubio Rojas ordered the killing with the help of the Association of Cattlemen of the Middle Magdalena region. Father Jaime Restrepo was murdered at the beginning of 1988 in Cisneros, Antioquia Department. [Words indistinct] massacred in 1982.

In addition to the military forces' direct support with weapons and training, [words indistinct] school of hired assassins, [words indistinct], driving vehicles, attacks on towns, [words indistinct] as those who acted in Segovia on 11 November. The narcomilitary gangs have their own schools and operations bases. Puerto Boyaca is known as a center of hired assassins. Other such bases are located in (San Juan Bosco de la Verde), Santander Department, and [name indistinct] of Las Mercedes, Antioquia Department.

The narcomilitary republic of the Middle Magdalena region has control over the mayors' offices in nine municipalities and covers more than 20,000 square km, equal in size to Guajira Department. Those municipalities are [name indistinct], Caldas Department; Puerto Salgar and Yacopi, Cundinamarca; Puerto Triunfo, Puerto [name indistinct], and Puerto Berrio, Antioquia Department; and Puerto Carare, Cimitarra, and Landazuri, Santander Department.

Because (?it wants to) control the people living in the narcomilitary republic, the government ideologically manipulates them through a network of primary schools, radio stations, permanent civic-military campaigns, and scholarships. Through this huge machinery the narcomilitary republic forces the population to remain in the region with the direct presence of the narcomilitary gangs.

Segovia Municipality is located in northern Antioquia Department, an area where the narcomilitary republic is trying to extend itself. The law of such drug traffickers as Pablo Escobar Gaviria, [name indistinct], and Fidel Castano prevails in this area of Middle Magdalena. The law of the hired assassins trained by the 14th Brigade headquartered in Puerto Berrio also prevails in this area. The U.S. Texas Company and the Association of Cattlemen of Middle Magdalena use their money to finance the narcomilitary gangs.

The people of Segovia [words indistinct] genocide. Approximately 50 people were wounded and 43 were killed as a result of the expansion plans of these narcomilitary gangs of Middle Magdalena. The genocide in the center of Segovia on 11 November is part of the normal growth pattern of the narcomilitary republic of the Middle Magdalena. Massacres and murders have been occurring for the past several years in the areas of the Middle Magdalena where the narcomilitary republic wants to expand.

What occurred in Segovia on 11 November is one of the greatest genocides in Colombia in recent times. [Words indistinct] the government and Armed Forces' inability to stop the advance of the popular and revolutionary forces. [Words indistinct] the people for having massively participated in the general strike.

We believe the civilian population must be respected. Therefore, the Simon Bolivar Guerrilla Coordinating Board, from the first [word indistinct], followed the Geneva treaties on [words indistinct]. (?We are) happy that [former President] Lopez Michelsen expressed support for those treaties [words indistinct] why his party's government does not want to follow the Geneva treaties. We

demand the presence of the Attorney General's Office so it will investigate the events [words indistinct]. We also demand an international [word indistinct] be present so the world will learn the truth of what occurred.

Drug Chiefs Reportedly Move Operations

PA1511163888 Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] Bogota—The international mafia lords who operate from Colombia have transferred their center of operations to the Putumayo region, where they have convinced 90 percent of the people in that area to grow coca plants. The number of coca plantations in the Putamayo region has increased despite the efforts of the authorities to destroy them.

Gilberto Flores Sanchez, the parliamentarian who broached this issue in Bogota, said 90 percent of the 300,000 people who live in the Putumayo region are growing coca plants because they have problems getting jobs, government loans, or the help they need to plant other crops.

The largest coca plantations are located in the Guane valley, Puerto Asis, (Levisono), and (La Hormigs).

M-19 Guerrillas Occupy Two Radio Stations

PA1411221488 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 10 Nov 88 p 8-C

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] M-19 members almost simultaneously assaulted two radio stations in Bucaramanga, subdued their employees, and aired recorded messages.

This took place yesterday at about 0545 at Radio Primavera and the Caracol network, which operates five radio stations.

Three men and a woman fooled guards at the "Jose Acevedo y Gomez" building. They then headed for the eighth floor armed with pistols and revolvers. Newsmen and engineers were tied up with rope and shoelaces and gagged with tape. As they were being tied up, one of the guerrillas forced an engineer to air a recorded message on a Caracol station.

The occupations lasted approximately 10 minutes. The Carlos Toledar Plata Group, which was headed by a man identifying himself as Pedro, explained that this action was carried out to commemorate the anniversary of the assault on the Justice Palace in Bogota.

Hours later, the police reported that they captured two individuals presumably involved in the assault. They were identified as Dario Porras Torres, an employee of the Electrification Company of Santander, and Hector Prada Perez. [passage omitted]

Guerrillas Attack 3 Towns in Boyaca Department

PA1411180488 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0100 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Text] The municipalities of Guican, El Cocuy, and Chica, Boyaca Department, were attacked last night by guerrillas, who staged such actions in that area of the country for the first time. Two policemen and one civilian were killed, and five people were wounded in the armed action.

Six Peasants Killed in Cordoba Department

PA1511210388 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0100 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] Six peasants were murdered in (La Puya), Los Cordobas Municipality, Cordoba Department. Cordoba Police Commander Colonel Gustavo Leal Perez said several men tied the peasants up, burned down their homes, and killed them. The peasants were living on land they had occupied. The INCORA [Colombian Institute of Agrarian Reform] was going to issue titles for this land soon.

Police Discover Poppy Plantation in Tolima

PA1411180288 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0100 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Summary] Tolima Department police arrested nine people in Rovira municipality, east of Ibague, during an operation in which 48,000 poppy plants were discovered.

Ecuador

Sole Workers Front Calls for 24 Nov Strike

PA1511033888 Paris AFP in Spanish 1611 GMT 13 Nov 88

[Text] Quito, 13 Nov (AFP)—The Sole Workers Front (FUT), the most powerful labor coalition in Ecuador, last night confirmed its call for a national strike on 24 November, it was reported here today by FUT President Edgar Ponce.

Delegates from all over the country and from other labor groups attended the meeting and agreed to hold a national strike on that date. This is the first strike that President Rodrigo Borja will have to face after being sworn in approximately 3 months ago.

Borja recently admitted the workers' right to strike, but he and other administration spokesmen asserted that they will protect the rights of those who wish to work.

Last night, the FUT received the support of other labor federations, including the Popular Front and national Indian and student organizations. The FUT is also waiting for a reply from government employees and professors, among others.

The protest movement was joined at the last minute by the CEDOC-CLAT [Ecuadoran Confederation of Catholic Workers-Latin American Central Organization of Workers], which is pro-Christian Democratic—the Christian Democratic Party shares power with Borja's Social Democratic Party—and its labor leaders initially proposed that the action be postponed.

Edgar Ponce invites his fellow countrymen to join the national strike because "this is an action for our life, survival, and justice."

The union demands that the foreign debt not be paid and that foreign trade, transportation, and fuel services be nationalized.

The union also demands salary increases, a freeze in the prices of staple items, the strengthening of government stores, and the resignation of economic officials and the labor minister, as well as solving other labor demands.

Congress President Wilfrido Lucero, of the Christian Democratic Party, asked the union to reconsider its decision because he thinks it is "unwise" and the measure would "worsen the country's economic and social problems."

The committee in charge of the celebrations to mark the country's independence asked that the strike be postponed, but no answer was received. Therefore, the election of Quito's beauty queen, an event which is usually the prelude to such celebrations, has been postponed from 25 November.

Monetary Board President on 'Urgent' Measures

PA1411123588 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Text] Ecuadoran Monetary Board President Alejandro Pachano has said the current lack of foreign exchange reserves and the existence of high deficits, which has worsened the country's economic crisis, demands the implementation of an urgent permanent economic program leading to a reduction in the current inflation rate.

Pachano made these statements during a seminar on perspectives of the Ecuadoran economy. Pachano said the basic characteristic of the current crisis is the presence of acute destabilization, which is represented by an inflationary process that threatens the survival not only of the industrial sector, but also of the entire Ecuadoran society.

Agreements Signed With Canada, Spain

PA1211025888 Quito EL COMERCIO in Spanish 1 Nov 88 pp A-2, A-6

[Summary] Ecuadoran Education Minister Alfredo Vera and Mrs Ann Henders, regional director of Canada's Association of Community Technical Supervisory Institutes [Asociacion de Institutos Supervisores Tecnicos Communitarios], have signed an agreement whereby Ecuador will receive the advice of Canadian education experts. Additionally, a scholarship system for Ecuadoran professionals to study in Canada will be organized.

Ecuadoran Foreign Minister Diego Cordovez and Fernando Perpina, Spanish foreign policy secretary general, signed a scientific and technical cooperation agreement yesterday. This agreement seeks to further develop agreement on the matter signed in 1971. It includes the exchange of missions of experts and advisers and scholarship programs.

Paraguay

Colorado Party Leaders Lash Out at Bishop

PY1511005488 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 13 Nov 88 p 8

[By a special correspondent]

[Excerpts] Concepcion—Mario Abdo Benitez [a vice president of the Executive Board of the Colorado Party] called for "a firm stance in demonstrating loyalty toward President Stroessner," and Ramon Aquino, president of the 14th Colorado Party Precinct of Asuncion, had harsh words for the local bishop [Anibal Maricevich], who he called "Maricewhisky," during a rally that had been scheduled by the Bernardino Cultural Center, which is currently headed by party leaders that were displaced from the board of the Concepcion Colorado Party Precinct. [passage omitted]

Mario Abdo Benitez spoke on the need to demonstrate strong loyalty toward President Stroessner "in the line of the Colorado and Stronista combatants, which is the best evidence that can be shown by those who are at the side of the loyal friends of President Stroessner." [passage omitted]

He also had harsh words for the local bishop, although he did not name him, stating that President Stroessner has done a lot for the northern part of the country, highlighting, among other works, the bridge over the Paraguay River.

Ramon Aquino had given an address before Abdo Benitez in which he harshly criticized the Cabrals, the current leaders of the local party precinct, whom he called "goats." He then said that the "traditionalist" faction of the party was a faction of "traitors." He accused Juan Ramon Chaves [former party president] of being a "tenant" of the party's headquarters. He had harsh words for the Vallemi party precinct and, referring to Centurion Nunez, he said in Guarani: "He cannot steal the hill because it is too big."

He then attacked the bishop, Anibal Maricevich, saying that "he is just an old drunkard like me," and calling him "poison" and "a communist follower." He finally dedicated a bottle of whisky in "Maricewhisky's" name. [passage omitted]

Church Responds to Attack

PY1511005688 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 14 Nov 88 pp 8, 9

[Text] In a communique on the subject of remarks made by Ramon Aquino against Msgr Anibal Maricevich, bishop of Concepcion, the archbishop of Asuncion stated: "This communique is not meant to convey a formal threat, but a warning and a reprimand to those who, assuming that their crimes will go unpunished, are unscrupulously slandering everyone, thus showing obvious disrespect for human dignity and, in this case, for the church they claim to belong to."

The communique adds: "Aquino, the already notorious chairman of the 14th Colorado Precinct and a member of the Colorado Party Executive Board, has made seriously offensive remarks against Msgr Maricevich, who is revered and respected by all the bishops of the CEP [Paraguayan Episcopal Conference] and loved by all Catholics who know of his pastoral work." After describing Msgr Maricevich as "an indefatigable, loyal defender of the rights and dignity of peasants" and noting that he is the dean of the bishops and that he has held several CEP posts, the communique says: "Therefore, he who with senseless audacity has slandered Msgr Maricevich has slandered the CEP as well."

The communique adds: "This type of action reflects the civic, cultural, and moral character of those individuals who participate in or are responsible for such meetings. It also reflects an image of our country's sociopolitical and religious reality that will transcend our borders. It is not necessary to use disinformation techniques. These actions speak for themselves and will bring shame upon their perpetrators."

The communique then cites sections 1369 and 1373 of the Canonical Code, which set "punishments" for those who blaspheme or slander religion or the church and for those who "publicly instigate the faithful to hate the Apostolic See or the Ordinary," (the local bishop).

The communique adds: "Loyal to its mission, the Church primarily seeks to convert or correct the defendant or sinner before punishing him. The Church is patient, extremely patient...but it will not tolerate impunity."

FRG To Finance Agricultural Research Center

PY1511151188 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 15 Nov 88 p 12

[Summary] During a ceremony presided over by Siegfried Lengl, FRG vice minister for economic cooperation, Paraguayan Justice and Labor Minister Jose Eugenio Jacquet—who is currently acting foreign minister—and FRG Ambassador to Paraguay Richard Louis yesterday signed an agreement for the establishment of an agricultural research center in the Central Chaco region. According to the agreement, the research center, which will be built using DM6 million of FRG financial aid, will promote agricultural production in the Chaco region. The FRG will supply experts in various areas, train Paraguayan experts, supply meteorological equipment, vehicles, and housing facilities, and finance and plan the construction of the project. The Paraguayan Government will provide 400 hectares of land for the construction of the center and land for the construction of houses, and will grant tax exemptions.

Peru

Prime Minister Comments on Price Adjustments

PY1411212588 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1800 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Text] The new price adjustments—which will be announced soon—will not exceed the workers' purchasing power, Prime Minister Armando Villanueva del Campo said today.

[Begin recording] [Villanueva] As President Garcia and Economy Minister Salinas said yesterday, there will be some price adjustments. As I stated before this assembly a few minutes ago, these adjustments will be limited by the people's purchasing power. No price adjustment will exceed the people's purchasing power. We will have to continue to tighten our belts, but not to the extent that our survival is threatened.

[Reporter] Will these new prices be truly realistic?

[Villanueva] Truly realistic prices will not be established merely by imposing a set of prices calculated by a group of experts. For instance, if they say that the price of a given commodity should be 1,000, this price will not be realistic if the people cannot pay more than 500. Truly realistic prices will have to combine necessity with the people's ability to pay.

[Second reporter] There is a bad forecast noting that inflation will reach 13,000 percent next year. Minister, can you...

[Villanueva, interrupting] That forecast probably came from witches, not from economists.

[Third reporter] To what extent will these price adjustments seek to establish realistic prices? Will these measures be adopted, even if they are unpopular?

[Villanueva] Any adjustment is unpopular, but it is the government's obligation to avoid hyperinflation. We still do not have hyperinflation and we will not have it, thanks to the adjustments we will make. [end recording]

Alfonsin To Dedicate Nuclear Research Center

PY1111142388 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0820 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Text] Lima, 11 Nov (EFE)—Peru will be on the threshold of becoming a supplier of isotopes and other strong sources of radiation to countries in this region with the inauguration of a 10-megawatt nuclear power plant in December.

The Argentine ambassador to Peru, Anselmo Marini, told EFE today that Argentine President Raul Alfonsin will inaugurate the Nuclear Research Center of Peru [Centro Nuclear de Investigacion del Peru] and that Argentina has financed 85 percent of the $106-million investment required for the center's construction and technological equipment.

The Argentine ambassador said that 15 December is the tentative date for the inauguration of the plant and for a meeting between the presidents of the two nations.

Alfonsin and Peru's Alan Garcia will take advantage of the meeting to sign a joint declaration and an agreement by which Peru will supply isotopes to Argentina, whose isotope plant is temporarily inoperative.

The technological agreement should also cover prospects for nuclear research in Peru with Argentine support, Marini added.

"This cooperation represents an effective step toward regional integration and also represents the most important project that Argentina has completed abroad," Marini stressed.

The Argentine ambassador said that along with the effects of the economic crisis in Latin America, "we can now show the results of technical cooperation between two underdeveloped nations—South-South cooperation."

The center will include a 10-megawatt reactor for research and the production of isotopes, ancillary laboratories for nuclear research, a radiologic protection center, and medical services.

After pointing out that Peru will supply isotopes to Argentina, the ambassador said that other countries in the region should become interested in Peru's production of isotopes in order to use them in nuclear medicine, industry, and agriculture, where they can be used to fight plagues of insects.

Marini said that Peru has important uranium reserves in the Andean region of Matusana, Puno Department, on the Bolivian border, 1,350 km southeast of Lima.

"Thousands of tons of Peruvian uranium are available, and Argentina, which has a "heavy water" plant under way, can enrich uranium, greatly benefiting the two countries," Marini said.

With the inauguration of the nuclear center, Peru will become the fourth Latin American country producing nuclear material for peaceful purposes. The others are Argentina, Brazil—the most advanced in the field—and Chile.

The nuclear center is located in the region of Huarangal, in Lima's Carabayllo District, 30 km north of Lima.

Terrorists Bomb Electric Tower, City Hall

PY1511132388 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1040 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] Terrorists have bombed electric tower No 151, located at kilometer 206 of the northern Panamericana Highway, cutting the power supply to Supe Pativilca, Barranca, and Paramonga.

The terrorists also bombed the entrance to the Paramonga City Hall, causing damage. Several individuals were arrested in connection with the attack and they have been placed at the disposal of the appropriate authorities.

Soviet Fish Industry Official Reviews Visit

PY1411175188 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 5 Nov 88 p A-5

[Text] (Andrey Zilanov), Soviet deputy minister of the fish industry, said yesterday at the Jorge Chavez Airport before returning to his country that the Soviets are willing to cooperate in the fishing industry but that the cooperation depended on the Peruvian Government.

He said that during his stay in our country he held talks with Peruvian officials on issues related to fishing.

He added that a work plan on this issue was discussed by officials of the two countries.

He indicated that his country can cooperate in the commercial, industrial, and technical aspects of fishing.

Garcia Meets With DPRK Trade Minister

PY1511214988 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1800 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] This morning at the government palace President Alan Garcia met with DPRK Foreign Trade Minister (Kim Il-yong) [name and title as heard].

The DPRK official arrived at the government palace at 1100 with his Peruvian counterpart, Enrique Cornejo Ramirez, director of the Foreign Trade Institute.

After the meeting, President Garcia escorted the two distinguished officials to the main entrance of the government palace.

Uruguay

President Sanguinetti Returns From PRC, Europe

PY1411134188 TELAM in Spanish 0201 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Text] Montevideo, 13 Nov (TELAM)—Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti today returned to Montevideo following his official visit to the PRC, where he met with the top leadership of that country.

Before returning to Uruguay, Sanguinetti made a 12-hour stopover in the FRG to discuss international issues and his trip to the PRC with Hans-Dietrich Genscher in Frankfurt.

In the PRC Sanguinetti discussed bilateral matters, especially trade, which he said is very fruitful. He also informed the PRC leaders on the result of the presidential meeting of the Group of Eight held in Punta del Este.

Sanguinetti was expected to arrive in Montevideo this morning, but because of technical problems during his stopover in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, his arrival was delayed.

Hails Trade Prospects

PY1511024688 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] It is in Uruguay's best interests to hold high-level talks with everyone, President Julio Maria Sanguinetti has said.

Sanguinetti said that Uruguay has reaffirmed its independence by negotiating with everyone, without regard to ideological leanings.

In an interview with local television stations upon resuming his presidential duties, President Sanguinetti reaffirmed ideas he had conveyed to our correspondent during his tour of Europe and Asia.

[Begin recording] [Sanguinetti] The PRC is a country that has opened up its borders, a country that has a dynamic economy. This fact is very important. The PRC is no longer applying the obsolete ideas that once prevailed in Marxist economies. That line has been discounted. Since the advent of perestroyka, Russia no longer applyies these ideas either. China has not taken this line of thinking for the past 10 years. This new policy has yielded tangible results. The PRC now has a fully dynamic economy which is much more open and which in the next few years will have even greater opportunities.

[Reporter] Considering what could happen in the next few years, the results of this Uruguayan mission, and the importance of the presence of 90 businessmen in the mission, can we assume that the PRC is a potential market for our exports, so that we may become less dependent on traditional markets than we have been up to now?

[Sanguinetti] I want to give you a good example of what is already happening. The PRC is today the main purchaser of Uruguayan wool. This has enabled our exporters to protect the price of our wool. Otherwise, we would have simply accepted the prices set by our traditional European markets. Because we now have the option of exporting to the PRC, our exporters are in a much better position to protect the price of wool against the Europeans and the Americans. This option has thus helped us strengthen our independence. It is absolutely necessary for our country to diversify its markets.

In recent years it has been said that Uruguay could not protect any market. The policy of diversification to which we are devoted is, in my opinion, paramount, and it must be projected into the future precisely to protect our production and to obtain the best possible prices for our products.

I attach great significance to diversification. I believe this is the main result of our 3 years in the government. We have made a great effort to diversify our markets. The results are in sight. [passage indistinct]

[Reporter] [question indistinct]

[Sanguinetti] The businessmen have clearly conveyed their optimism, not only about what has already been accomplished but about the prospects for exporting other items, such as blankets, on which there are good chances of closing a deal.

[Reporter] Which will be the leading trade items: raw materials or manufactured products?

[Sanguinetti] If possible, manufactured and semimanufactured items. There are (?adequate) semimanufactured products, and there are also manufactured products such as leather and textile items. There are also agricultural products, such as soybeans. [words indistinct]

[Reporter] Is the PRC market promising enough to encourage Uruguayan industry to improve its technology to be able to export to the PRC?

[Sanguinetti] We should be prepared to export to all markets. This is something our country has to do on every front, at all times.

[Reporter] Is the PRC market helping create more jobs?

[Sanguinetti] I would say that the textile industry, wool producers, and soybean growers are today already highly dependent on the PRC market. [end recording]

Interior Minister Cited on Amnesty Law Issue

PY1211175488 TELAM in Spanish 9449 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Text] Cordoba, 11 Nov (TELAM)—Uruguayan Interior Minister Antonio Marchesano has said that the Uruguayan Army understands its position within society. He also admitted the existence of great political uneasiness over the possibility of repealing an amnesty law enacted in Uruguay some time ago.

In remarks to Radio Universidad de Cordoba, the Uruguayan interior minister recalled that democracy was restored in Uruguay through absolutely flawless negotiations.

Marchesano explained that a debate is being held, amid great political uneasiness, on whether to call a plebiscite to repeal an amnesty law that was approved in Uruguay a few years ago.

Marchesano added that this problem is clear to the Uruguayan Government. To call a plebiscite, the signature of 25 percent of the people registered at the electoral registry are required. If the electoral court finds that 25 percent have signed the petition, a plebiscite will undoubtedly be called. If it finds otherwise, the Constitution will be observed, he said.

Marchesano said that despite the existence of nostalgic extremists who do not understand democracy, the majority of the people have learned to adapt to the system.

During his visit to Cordoba, the Uruguayan minister met with members of the Consultative Council of the Cordoba Province Political Parties. Later, he lectured at the Second National Congress on Urban Security.

Tupamaro Leader Acquitted on 'False News' Charge

PY1511031488 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] An Uruguayan court has acquitted Tupamaro leader Eleuterio Fernandez Huidobro, who was charged by a prosecutor with spreading false news to disrupt public order. In a televised program, Fernandez Huidobro alluded to (?children) who have been missing since the death of Army Colonel Ramon Trabal [Uruguayan military attache murdered in Paris during the military rule in Uruguay].

The defense contended that Fernandez Huidobro did not make disclosures, but simply disseminated other versions of events that were already known to some people. The defense admitted, however, that some of Fernandez Huidobro's contentions were unsubstantiated.

The court decision was immediately appealed by the prosecutor, who reaffirmed his charges and the legal bases. He also noted that Fernandez Huidobro made these remarks with malice.

Guyana

Foreign Minister Jackson Leaves for Europe

FL1511225288 Bridgetown CANA in English 1714 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Nov 15, CANA—Guyana's minister of foreign affairs, Rashleigh Jackson, left here over the weekend for official visits to West Germany and Finland.

The state media announced that Jackson's visits were to start Monday and end Saturday. Jackson is being accompanied by Guyana's ambassador to Brussels, James Matheson, head of the Department of International Economic Cooperation (DIEC), Dr Cecil Rajana, and his administrative assistant, Rosamuna Joseph.

The visits to the two West European countries "will provide opportunities to promote bilateral relations in the political and economic fields", the state media reported.

Government Policy Hurts Union Financially

FL1011204488 Bridgetown CANA in English 2028 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Nov 10, CANA—Relations between the government and the leadership of the Guyana Public Service Union (GPSU) have grown colder with government's announcement that it has suspended deduction of so-called "agency fees" from the salaries of state-paid employees. The decision, unionists say, has the potential of hurting the union financially, possibly depriving it of as much as 162,000 dollars (one Guy dollar—10 U.S. cents) a month.

The move has prompted an emergency meeting of its executive [as received] between today and tomorrow, according to President George Daniels.

Daniels told CANA the union may seek a court injunction to restrain the government from implementing its decision, and pointed out that as a result of bungling by government and amendment of union rules, nearly all public officers now pay union dues and not agency fees.

In keeping with a 1976 agreement, agency fees are deducted compulsorily from the salaries of public officers who are not members of the GPSU. These fees, in addition to union dues from those who are members of the union, are deducted and paid over by government ministries to the union every month.

It is estimated that in excess of 20,000 persons are currently employed in the public service and of that number only about 11,000 are registered members of the GPSU.

Monthly deductions for either union dues or agency fees are set at 18 dollars per person.

Government said Wednesday it is prepared to continue deducting union dues "notwithstanding the fact that there are also serious irregularities involving the management of these funds." It contended, however, that "regrettably, the union maintains no proper register of public officers who pay agency fees and of those officers who, being members, pay union dues."

It said it has requested the union to supply the public service ministry with an accurate list of its members and as soon as this is done, it is prepared to recommence deductions of union dues. It is, however, not prepared to resume deduction of agency fees until the union complies with the provisions of the agency fees agreement.

Government said it has been established that the GPSU failed to maintain registers of its own membership and of persons from who agency fees are collectible and in the circumstances, the auditor general could not verify the amount of agency fees or the amount of union dues.